



P.O. Box 218
Madelia, Minnesota 56062
651-291-7311
www.mnta.org

April 7, 2025

Senator Matt D. Klein, Chair
Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
2105 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Gary Dahms, Ranking Minority Member
2219 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Ref: SF 2224

Via e-mail

Chair Klein, Ranking Minority Member Dahms and members of the Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee, I am writing in support of SF 2224.

We very much appreciate all of work Senator Rasmusson has done bringing the stakeholders together. This issue is actually quite simple. How does one provider transfer a customer to another provider without the customer losing service at a reasonable price. This issue is unique to telecommunications because we are the only competitive utility. Customers change their service provider every day, that is nothing new. What is new is a company relinquishing their Carrier of Last Resort obligations. We believe this bill has struck a balance that will allow carriers to make good business decisions AND protect consumers.

This bill is part of a larger effort to modernize over 100 year old telephone regulation that has not kept up with changes in technology. Current Minnesota Statutes and Public Utilities Commission rules are built for a time when landline telephone service was a monopoly, which hasn't existed for almost 30 years. It doesn't make sense to require a telephone company to maintain an old network when consumers have multiple other options for service built on modern advanced technology.

Every state that borders Minnesota, and many more, has already deregulated landline telephone service. Proof that fairness in telecom regulation does not come at the expense of consumers. Minnesota can get out of the way of telecommunications advancement and still ensure consumers have access to quality, reliable voice services.

Please support SF 2224 and take this first step in modernizing rules and regulations that are out of date and out of touch with today's technology.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brent J. Christensen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Brent J. Christensen
President/CEO