

July 13, 2022

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC)
Katie Sieben (Chair)
Joseph K. Sullivan (Vice-chair)
Valerie Means
Matthew Schuerger
John Tuma

Cc:
Governor Tim Walz
Commissioner Steve Grove

Docket Nos. P-6995/M-21-133; P-558, 6995/M-22-221

The Governor's Broad Task Force shares the concerns expressed in the MTA/MREA petition and in the comments of others regarding LTD Broadband Corp's (LTD's) ability to meet its Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) commitments to build and operate a fiber-to-the-premise broadband network in Minnesota. Meanwhile, LTD's potential receipt of \$311 million in RDOF funding jeopardizes the ability of other providers to access public funding to bring broadband to the approximately 102,000 locations covered by LTD's potential RDOF award in Minnesota.

Given the pressing need to bridge the digital divide and bring high-speed broadband to unserved areas of Minnesota, we need to be sure that scarce public resources will be used effectively and that those who receive public funding can be trusted and counted on to deliver the broadband infrastructure and services we need. Therefore, we strongly encourage the Commission to launch a proceeding to consider revoking LTD's expanded ETC designation as requested in the MTA/MREA petition.

The pandemic has made clear the need for fast, reliable broadband service to all homes and businesses in the state. Federal funding is available to get that infrastructure deployed. Broadband is the foundational element that is a force multiplier for all other issues. We need it to better address critical challenges and build economic opportunity, competitiveness, and prosperity.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Teddy Bekele', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Teddy Bekele
Chair, Governor's Broadband Task Force

Task Force Members: Yvonne Cariveau, Steve Fenske, Steve Giorgi, Jason Hollinday, Marc Johnson, Bernadine Joselyn, Micah Myers, Jim Weikum, Dave Wolf.

Abstain: Brian Krambeer, Theresa Sunde, Paul Weirtz