Minnesota Has Fallen Behind.
Despite countless studies and task forces on broadband, the state has yet to make a serious investment in broadband infrastructure, and our current state laws hold back local investment. The result is that many areas of the state are falling behind and the state ranks 23rd nationally in broadband speeds, according to the Governor’s Task Force.

How Will Your Community Benefit From Fiber Broadband Connections?

- **Business**: Business is increasingly done online, and the ability to sell to consumers worldwide requires reliable, world-class connections.
- **Farming**: As farming becomes even more globally competitive, our communities need to be connected for up-to-the-minute updates on weather, disease identification, and commodity prices, alongside GPS navigation.
- **Health care**: Greater Minnesota’s long distances require health care provided over broadband, which is already practiced elsewhere.
- **Education**: Currently, many Greater Minnesota parents bring their children to connected areas miles away from their homes. This is not viable to attract new residents and keep our current ones.
- **Independent Living**: As the baby-boomers age, the ability to live in remote areas is made easier through the connections broadband provides.

The Border-to-Border Broadband Fund is the Solution.

- The Governor’s Broadband Task Force Report recommended a $100 million infrastructure fund to start addressing up to a $3.2 billion total investment need statewide.
- Over a dozen states have similar funds to support broadband infrastructure.
- A grant program, modeled after the enormously successful New York broadband program, funded at $100 million to provide development incentives is needed.
- Communities, co-ops, private providers, or non-profit organizations are awarded funds from the Office of Broadband Development and DEED, upon demonstration showing financial viability, community support, and local need.
- Target local challenges with local solutions that provide the infrastructure, service and speeds for cutting-edge applications in commerce, health, education, agriculture, and public safety.

The New York Broadband Fund is an Enormous Economic Success.

- As of March 2013, New York had appropriated $57 million. This resulted in 153,000 households, 8,000 businesses, and 400 anchor institutions being connected.
- To date, the grant fund and other state funding directed $68 million to broadband projects across New York.
- New York is in the top 10 in average peak connection speed and both >10 Mbps and >4Mbps broadband connectivity. Minnesota does not rank in the top 10 in any measure.

Broadband: A Great Investment.

The Blandin Foundation funded a study of county impacts in Minnesota, conducted by Strategic Networks Group (SNG), which found a **10 to 1 return on investment** in expanding access in Lac Qui Parle County.


Recent Studies Find Huge Impact.

- The average increase in household income in areas where broadband speed is upgraded from 4 to 8 Mbps is **$120 per month**. (“Home Broadband Speed Impacts Household Income,” Ericsson, 9/17/13, http://www.ericsson.com/news/1729555)
- With other factors held equal, rural U.S. counties with more broadband adoption (more than 60%) saw 6.3% more growth in median household incomes in 2001-2010 than counties with less broadband adoption (less than 60%).

Initial Analysis Released Exclusively to the GMNP by Strategic Networks Group Shows the Enormous Impact of High-Quality Broadband.

**On an annualized basis, 95% coverage would produce:**

- **$440 million in household income**
- **15,000 jobs created or sustained**
- **Over $1 billion in State GDP**

How Do Various Funding Proposals Impact State GDP?

Every dollar invested toward reaching the $3.2 billion broadband need results in substantial economic benefits for the state, as shown by analysis based on initial data from SNG at left.

Small investments result in small economic benefits. Over a dozen states are investing in broadband access, so it is imperative that Minnesota make a serious effort to catch up – every dollar of investment means more economic activity.