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Klobuchar Highlights Minnesota's Successful Efforts to Increase Broadband Adoption in Rural Communities, Calls for More Work to Be Done to Continue to Get Families and Businesses Connected

The Senate Commerce Committee Hearing featured testimony from Bernadine Joselyn, Director of Public Policy for the Blandin Foundation, which works to improve broadband adoption in rural Minnesota communities

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar today highlighted Minnesota's successful efforts to increase broadband adoption in rural communities during a Senate Commerce Committee hearing, and said that more work needs to be done to continue to get families and businesses connected. The hearing featured testimony from Bernadine Joselyn, Director of Public Policy for the Blandin Foundation, which works to strengthen residential and business connections to broadband across Minnesota.

"As Minnesota continues to work to bring high-speed Internet to rural communities, we need to make sure that businesses, families and students can utilize these connections to help boost local economies and compete in a global marketplace." Klobuchar said. **"Organizations like the Blandin Foundation are doing good work to get more communities online, and I will continue to fight to ensure all Minnesotans have access broadband regardless of where they live."**

Klobuchar is a member of the Senate Commerce Committee and has been a leader in working to improve access to high-speed Internet in rural areas, helping secure grants from the Departments of Agriculture and Commerce to expand broadband access in rural Minnesota and

to promote digital literacy and broadband adoption programs. In addition, she has introduced the Broadband Conduit Deployment Act which would require states to simultaneously install broadband conduits as part of certain federal transportation projects, including projects such as building a new highway or adding a new lane or shoulder to an existing highway.

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