



WRITTEN STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD

**HON. TARRYL CLARK
COMMISSIONER
STEARNS COUNTY,
MINNESOTA**

ON BEHALF OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

**HEARING TITLED, "A 2022 REVIEW OF THE FARM BILL: BROADBAND" BEFORE THE U.S. HOUSE
AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

SEPTEMBER 15, 2022

Chair Scott, Ranking Member Thompson, and distinguished members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on the importance of broadband and high-speed internet connectivity in our rural communities, and the role of county governments in helping to connect our most unserved and underserved residents across the country.

My name is Tarryl Clark and I serve as the First District Commissioner in Stearns County, Minnesota and Chair of the National Association of Counties Telecommunications and Technology Policy Steering Committee. Stearns County is home to approximately 160,000 residents who rely daily on the availability of high-speed internet to connect to remote work, education and telehealth services. Across our county, we boast a community whose backbone is the work of our rural communities and farmers, who depend on high-speed internet for uses as wide ranging as precision agriculture to modern participation in online commerce. Yet as demonstrated most recently by the COVID-19 pandemic, we are witnessing a connectivity gap that has left our rural residents out of reach from high-speed internet infrastructure and critical services. This lack of reliable broadband is a major economic barrier and an issue of socioeconomic equality.

Counties play a major role in broadband deployment efforts within our communities. We serve key roles as partners, funders, policymakers, data aggregators, and conveners for promoting high-speed internet access and broadband deployment across our community. As partners and funders, counties work to connect our residents to high-speed internet services through strong public-private partnerships and the utilization of federal grant opportunities. We rely on a system of intergovernmental coordination with our federal and state counterparts to achieve the collective mission of closing the digital divide.

As a testament to this role, and through the passage of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and implementation of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (Recovery Fund), counties have invested direct funds into critical broadband infrastructure and services through the ARPA Recovery Fund. Counties have also directly addressed issues of internet affordability and the “homework gap,” through direct aid and support for our residents ranging from public Wi-Fi and hotspots to outreach efforts that support expanded collaboration with community anchor institutions.

Counties also play a critical role as policymakers of broadband deployment within our jurisdictions. As stewards of public rights-of-way and other public property access points, counties work together with internet service providers on a regular basis to streamline broadband deployment and access for our residents, while retaining local authority for public assets that are held in trust to benefit the local community. Counties support smart policies such as “dig once” and “future-proofing” broadband infrastructure and deployment efforts to ensure that our residents have access to ongoing and reliable high-speed internet services.

Finally, counties serve as data aggregators and conveners in broadband deployment efforts. Counties across the country have engaged in efforts to collect quantitative and qualitative data at the local level to determine the true state of connectivity and demonstrate community need for investments in high-speed internet connectivity. We also convene public partners and community stakeholders on a regular basis.

The role of broadband in rural communities today cannot be overstated. In fact, “broadbandification” of the country can be seen as very similar to the rural electrification movement of the 20th century, where the federal government played a critical role in serving our rural communities when the economic incentive to extend the grid was not present. There is a large opportunity for intergovernmental partnerships and coordination to continue with the different USDA broadband programs currently under review ahead of the 2023 Farm Bill.

As Congress begins negotiations around the 2023 Farm Bill, counties urge lawmakers to include provisions that will continue to advance our shared goals of closing the digital divide across America and providing rural communities with the resources they need to be resilient and future-ready in the 21st century. America's counties agree on the following recommendations:

- **COVID-19 exacerbated the already dire digital divide in rural America, and counties urge Congress to continue to fund broadband deployment geared specifically to rural communities.**
- **The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) is offering vital resources to ensure access to high-speed internet to local governments. However, a continued focus on broadband infrastructure grant programs that are accessible, flexible, and respectful of local decision-making authority is needed.**
- **To ensure we meet our collective goal of 100 percent connectivity across rural America, counties support a stronger federal-state-local framework.**

COVID-19 exacerbated the already dire digital divide in rural America, and counties urge Congress to continue to fund broadband deployment geared specifically to rural communities.

Our lives and futures have become inextricably tied to technology. Without access to high-speed internet, many of our rural and underserved communities are becoming increasingly isolated and left behind.

The COVID-19 pandemic laid bare the digital divide in our country for rural communities, who are at a particular disadvantage in receiving adequate broadband service due to their remote location and lower population density. For these rural communities, broadband can serve as a lifeline, connecting students to online degrees and connecting sick patients to medical consultations locally unavailable.

Congress made historic investments into America's counties with the passage of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). Combined, both vital pieces of legislation have bestowed counties with the flexibility to invest in infrastructure networks targeted toward unserved and underserved households across the country. Counties have a large role to play in helping to steward these federal resources and ensuring local communities receive access to high-speed and reliable internet service.

As these historic federal investments show, the need for federal support for broadband investments in our unconnected and rural communities continue to be a top priority for America's counties. Both ARPA and BIL are offering vital resources in the form of direct fiscal aid to local governments. However, coupled with provisions in the Farm Bill, specifically resources through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's ReConnect Program, counties have been able to take major and necessary steps to close the digital divide. Counties urge that the focus on rural connectivity in the current Farm Bill be carried over into the 2023 iteration to support our continued efforts in broadband infrastructure.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) is offering vital resources to ensure access to high-speed internet to local governments. However, a continued focus on broadband infrastructure grant programs that are accessible, flexible and respectful of local decision-making authority is needed.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) is currently offering the nation an unparalleled opportunity to close the digital divide and provide accessible and affordable internet access for all rural Americans. The BIL's devotion of \$65 billion towards broadband deployment, digital equity and internet affordability initiatives provides the opportunity for well-guided federal dollars to reach every unserved and underserved community across the

country.

Counties are actively executing the mission of BIL's broadband goals by working with our state partners to implement the Broadband Equity, Affordability, and Deployment (BEAD) program, promote the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) to eligible households and communities within our jurisdictions, and developing digital equity plans in coordination with states to ensure our communities have the digital skills and support needed to thrive in a 21st century society.

As we continue to focus on connecting our rural communities to high-speed internet, the Farm Bill's existing broadband infrastructure programs stand as significant opportunities to close the digital divide. Specifically, in our experience when implementing these federal programs related to broadband, counties offer the following recommendations:

- **Streamlined application processes:** To ensure that rural communities can and will participate in broadband infrastructure grant programs, a streamlined application process is needed. Counties play a large role in helping local providers apply for federal dollars, and the Farm Bill can continue to support rural communities by providing as many on-the-ground resources as possible to support grant applications and streamline application requirements while ensuring projects meet the goals of delivering high-speed internet service.
- **Prioritizing high-speed internet:** To best meet the needs of rural residents, federal programs should encourage broadband deployment projects that offer technological solutions that best fit a community's needs, while also prioritizing projects that promise the most reliable and high-speed service. This balance will ensure that communities retain the utmost flexibility to utilize the technologies that best meet the geographic and topological conditions of a particular community while ensuring that all broadband projects provide reliable and ongoing service that sufficiently constitutes high-speed internet.
- **Prioritizing communities with minimal access to broadband services:** Counties support federal funding being allocated to areas with no broadband infrastructure, including areas that do not currently have projects with final approval to use federal dollars to deploy broadband infrastructure that meets the minimum definition of high-speed internet. Our rural communities cannot miss this palpable moment to connect every unserved resident to high-speed internet that will be accessible and affordable for the foreseeable future.
- **Leveraging local expertise and resources:** Using local tools, such as community broadband mapping, can play a large role in helping our federal partners identify where broadband is most needed. This unique data will help shed light on the true state of connectivity across the country, especially in rural regions. Counties, along with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), will be able to adequately adopt the new national standard and utilize these findings to address our nation's connectivity issues.

To ensure we meet our collective goal of 100 percent connectivity across rural America, counties support a stronger federal-state-local framework.

As important partners in the intergovernmental process, county leaders are most interested in serving in all capacities necessary to help close the ongoing digital divide in our rural communities. Counties that represent our rural residents recognize acutely that the ongoing divide leads to an unacceptable outcome for rural

Americans, and the Farm Bill offers a unique opportunity to bring broadband infrastructure into focus for our rural communities.

As prudent stewards of federal dollars and diligent collaborators with internet service providers, counties can help play a central role in the implementation of federal broadband programs geared towards rural America.

This work to close the digital divide in counties across the country is ongoing and is truly a joint goal among federal, state and local partners. For example, in my state of Minnesota, we have developed our Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant Program initiative, which prioritizes high-speed internet services for our most unserved communities across the state. This state initiative requires robust coordination with local government partners to ensure we are meeting our residents' needs.

Another example of this intergovernmental partnership is with the authorization of ARPA. In Stearns County, we have dedicated over \$16 million to connect our residents to broadband that will ultimately provide fiber-to-the-premises to almost every household in our county. This project will ultimately require leveraging the efforts and funds from every township within our jurisdiction as well as ready-and-willing internet service providers in our county to drive this project to completion.

These are just two examples of how the intergovernmental partnership is critical in solving the technology divide in our nation. As important ground-level partners in our nation's intergovernmental system, counties can deploy the resources needed to make meaningful progress on rural broadband expansion, with a strategic focus on supporting rural communities.

Conclusion

Chair Scott, Ranking Member Thompson, and distinguished members of the Committee, thank you again for the opportunity to testify today.

Counties recognize that today, reliable, fast and affordable high-speed internet is a fundamental part of ensuring our residents can achieve healthy, safe and fulfilled lives.

We appreciate the efforts that have been brought forward thus far to address the current lack of connectivity in our rural communities and look forward to working with you to achieve our shared goal of closing the nation's digital divide.

Tarryl L Clark, Esq.
County: 705 Courthouse Square St. Cloud, MN 56303 email: tarryl.clark@co.stearns.mn.us

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Stearns County Board of Commissioners, District 1 **2019-Present**

2021 Chair of five person governing board governing the county's operation, administration, budget and finances including approval of budgets, tax levy and resource development. Develop and approve pertinent county ordinances, policies and partnerships. Participate in planning initiatives and partnerships. Liaise with constituents and community groups including communicating, convening and educating. Elected November 2018.

Board/Task Forces Including:

State: Association of Minnesota Counties Delegate and Board Member, Human Services Policy Committee Chair; Housing and Economic Development Workgroup, Transportation Funding Workgroup; State Competency Restoration Task Force Member; Minnesota Inter County Association Board and Treasurer; State Community Health Services Advisory Committee, Chair Elect; Transportation Alliance.

National Association of Counties: Telecommunication and Technology Steering Committee Chair and Rural Action Caucus Vice-Chair; Member of Healthy Counties, Resilient Counties, Arts and Culture Commission; Broadband Task Force Member and Closing the Digital Divide Work Group Lead. Past Subcommittee Chair of Human Services and Education Steering Committee and Member of Environment, Energy and Land Use Committee.

Regional/County: Central Minnesota Council on Aging Board Member, Coalition Advancing Healthy Families Joint Powers Board, Vice-Chair, Community Corrections Advisory Board, Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee, Dairy Advisory Committee, Delinquent Refuse Account Appeals Panel, Environmental Services Fee Appeals Panel, Greater St. Cloud Development Corporation Board Alt., Human Services Advisory Committee, Human Services Board, Noxious Weeds Appeal Committee, Regional Emergency Medical Services Joint Powers Board Alt., Regional Rail Authority, Resource, Training and Solutions Board, St Cloud Airport Advisory Committee, St Cloud/Benton/Sherburne/Stearns Joint Airport Zoning Board, SHIP Community Leadership Team, Tri-County Solid Waste Management Commission Board, Past Chair.

Consultant **1994-Present**

Connect people, ideas, strategies, and solutions that strengthen organizations and communities by removing barriers and creating opportunities through leading or facilitating high impact collaborative initiatives which bring about policy and system change.

Local, state, regional and national work with public institutions, nonprofit organizations, coalitions, and community based groups. Range of services including system redesign, strategic direction, planning and trouble-shooting; board and fund development; advocacy, organizing and public policy development; messaging and communications; training; community engagement; coalition building; assessment and outcome measurement; project development and management. Trained in and utilize Future Search, Transformational Leadership, other strategic models.

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities

Inver Hills Community College **2016-2017** **Vice President and Provost for Academic Affairs**

- Responsible for oversight of all academic areas and large multi-million budget

- Successfully lead reaffirmation of national accreditation
- Brought in to serve on interim basis following college's multiple semesters of declining enrollment and budget challenges; reduced budget while setting stage for future budget stability and leveraging opportunities for increasing enrollment and success of underrepresented students.

**St. Cloud Technical and Community College
Academic Dean**

2013-2016

- Provided collaborative division leadership working with up to 100 faculty and staff to enhance academic program quality, faculty development, teaching, and student success. Directed instructional management functions and operations in technology based programs including computer programming, network administration, health information technology, advertising, web design and development, legal support, and administrative support along with natural sciences, social sciences and mathematic disciplines. Increased enrollment in general education, developmental math redesign and expanded college level offerings,
- Administered \$4.5 million salary and non-salary budgets; schedule and faculty assignments; classroom, laboratory and facility scheduling; programs – accreditation, articulation agreements, partnership agreements, program advisory boards; community relationships; program and discipline action plans; training; utilizing StrengthsFinder and appreciative inquiry; implementation of collective bargaining agreements, policies and procedures; aligning with academic affairs, colleges and system's strategic directions and goals.
- Promoted, facilitated and supported innovative and collaborative cross program, division and community efforts including development of STEM initiatives; high impact action and success plans to increase student success in sciences; innovative expansion of opportunities for underrepresented students including the Orion Academy targeting diverse high school students who struggle with science and math; shortening pathways to completion for students. Recruitment and retention plan development to increase women in STEM related programs including participation in Women in STEM Tech boot camp (2016).
- Developed and cultivated internal and community relationships and collaborations including with other MnSCU institutions, K-12 and community partnerships, and industry. STEM related partnerships with St. Cloud State University. removing barriers to and increasing opportunities to transfer to MnSCU universities. Interacted with elected and appointed officials, media and external constituents.
- Enhanced educational opportunities community resources for service members, veterans and their families through embedding internal changes and developing innovative campus based community HomeFront Resource Center for service members, veterans and their family members leading collaboration of community stakeholders.
- Fund development and friend raising for HomeFront Resource Center. Partnership with SCSU on STEM related grant opportunities. Support legislative fund and capital investment requests. Support external funding including scholarships, grants, and small donor development.
- Active leadership and involvement in variety of campus and MnSCU teams and initiatives including MnSCU capital investment scoring, HLC Quality Check Up Steering Committee, Executive Leadership, Shared Governance, AASC, Charting the Future planning team and campus committee, Diversity Committee, Team for Academic and Student Success, Cyclones Care intervention team, and Enrollment management.
- With faculty, presented on Orion Academy Project at Higher Learning Commission (2016 and League for Innovation in the Community College (2016); with faculty will present two sessions at STEMTech 2016; MnSCU Executive Leadership Development Program 2015-2016.

Recruited from faculty to apply for Dean position, served as interim Dean in a realigned division. Prior to beginning position, consultant on enhancement of Veterans, Service Members and their Families

Initiatives including survey development, project development, external collaboration development, credit for prior learning in-service.

Part-time Faculty, Political Science

Taught policy issues, government and political process to traditional and under represented students; active learning approach utilizing multiple instructional methods, assessment, materials and technology; connecting historical and contemporary issues; utilizing local experts to reinforce student learning (2013).

Blue Green Alliance, National Co-Chair JOBS21!

2011-2014

- Lead national initiative bringing together often divergent groups of labor, environment, and industry to create local jobs, leverage public investment in economic and workforce development, and gain bipartisan support at the local, state, and national levels for targeted industries including: transportation, manufacturing, renewable energy, energy efficiency, recycling, green chemistry, broadband internet, and smart grid technologies.
- Facilitated successful energy industrial efficiency stakeholder process of heavy industrial energy users and others including mining, pulp and paper, MN Department of Commerce, St. Paul Port Authority, US Steelworkers, Sheet metal workers, and other BlueGreen Alliance labor and environmental partners. Culminated in recommendations including energy efficiency bonds enacted in 2014. Key leader of coalition securing enactment of Minnesota solar standard and other clean energy initiatives in 2013.
- Communicated and conducted events with federal, state, and local officials; significant communication with media through multiple platforms.
- Coalition building, strategic assessment and direction, policy development and advocacy, public and media communication, round table development and facilitation, presented at workshops and provided training.
- Fundraising including small donor program development, individual donor and grant related. Clean Energy and Jobs Coalition Steering Committee; Energy and Jobs Association; Member, United Steel Workers.

Congressional Candidate

MN 8th District

2012

MN 6th District

2010

- Lead multiple teams, significant fundraising, organizing, volunteer recruitment, new ways to engage voters, and polling. Built significant coalition of stakeholder groups, public and private leaders, Senate districts, and volunteers including individuals across a broad political spectrum.
- Cutting edge use of online tools; public speaking and media communication to print, radio and TV; creative use of social media. Keynote and presenter at Netroots Nation.
- Strong 2010 campaign in the 6th including raising nearly \$5 million from over 45,000 individuals holding incumbent to one of the slimmest margins of victory for an incumbent majority member even as she emerged as a leader in the Tea Party surge – most expensive race to date at that time. Largest grassroots campaign ever seen in 6th district. First female Congressional candidate in the 8th district in 2012. Advanced leadership opportunities for women. Raised over \$1 million in competitive primary campaign.

Minnesota Senate, Asst./Deputy Majority Leader & State Senator

2005-2011

Elected by peers to the number two leadership position in State Senate eleven months after late December 2005 special election and re-election in November 2006. Overall budget, policy and political strategy; coalition building with allied groups; recruitment and work with new Senators.

- Public spokesperson for majority caucus communicating regularly with print, radio, television and online press. Held weekly media availabilities.
- Coordinated agency bills; strategic coalition development - significant work with stakeholder groups, staff and caucus development; fund raising.
- Vice Chair Rules Committee, Member E-12 policy and finance committees and co-chair education conference committee (2007); Higher Education policy and finance committees; Jobs, Energy and Community Development policy committee.
- Leadership and advocacy for excellent education including removing credit transfer barriers, realigning workforce development programs, technology use, capital investment, funding, and breaking down financial barriers to education. Co-Chair Education Conference Committee 2007.
- Governor's Workforce Development Council; Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council. Co-Chair State Warrior to Citizen.
- Council of State Governments: Executive Committee, Vice-Chair Financial Services Committee. Rising States Leaders Program (joint program with Canadian Government), Toll Leadership Fellow, member bipartisan delegation to Taiwan, BILLD Leadership Fellow and Steering committee.
- National Conference of State Legislatures: State Leaders Institute, Federal Liaison, Education Standing Committee Member, participant in several education related institutes including higher education. Presenter at national and regional conferences.
- Prior to election, Associate Chair State DFL party, DNC member, Association of Democratic Party Chairs. Emphasis on expanding base particularly young, rural, moderate, underrepresented groups not involved in party; communication; organizing; recruiting; executive and central committee; fundraising and budget. National Democratic Convention Delegate 2004, Platform Committee, Delegation Member 2008.
- **Minnesota Community Action Partnership, Executive Director 1998-2006**
- Provided leadership and oversight for statewide community based partnership including plans, activities, budgets, resource development, and operations for 501(c) 3, 501(c) 4 and PAC.
- Developed public policy, provided successful legislative representation and grassroots actions on broad range of issues impacting families, organizations and communities. Lead collaborative initiatives to create and implement high impact strategies to eliminate poverty and to strengthen communities.
- Spearheaded transformational leadership and member organization capacity development; collaboration and coalition development; training; outcome measurement development; facilitation; marketing; public and media communication; community capacity building; fundraising including federal, state and foundation grants; board and fiscal management.
- Co-lead, with the state, multiple groups within and between organizations and others to determine, develop and implement statewide web based data management system including managing multiple databases, security, data privacy, and outcome measurement.
- Lead transformational leadership training, plan development and implementation of local and statewide plans leading to increased organizational capacity and effectiveness in meeting identified goals.
- Lead implementation of innovative grassroots organizing mechanisms and efforts. Employed strategies successfully in collaborative advocacy efforts across a broad spectrum of challenges and opportunities impacting low-income individuals and families, service organizations, and communities.

- Leadership role in bringing together local, state, and regional organizations throughout the country, network groups, and coalition partners to develop and implement high impact strategies to eliminate poverty and to strengthen families and communities. Presented and trained in local, regional, and national conferences, trainings, and functions.
- Active involvement in Region V Regional Coordinating Council; State Community Action Association Executive Director's group; Mid-America Community Action Association, Treasurer.

Northwest Area Foundation Devolution Project, Regional Coordinator 1997-2000

Coordinated and provided technical assistance to devolution projects created after federal welfare reform in each of eight Midwestern and western states in the areas of public policy/advocacy, data/monitoring, and community capacity building. Oversaw additional grant funds, mapping and technology project, and media project. Planned and implemented grantee meetings; public speaking; trainings; trouble shooting; Future Search training and facilitation; resource connection.

Community Response Task Force, Director 1997-1999

Directed and facilitated efforts central Minnesota initiative comprising eight work groups with over 100 entities and individuals focused on system change and community supports following federal welfare reform. Provided leadership, oversight and technical assistance to each work group and coordinating council as well as to projects funded by task force. Collaboration building; policy development; advocacy; resource development; training; public speaking; community engagement; coordinating council and fiscal management.

Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota, Public Policy Director 1995-1997

Public policy development and advocacy on broad spectrum of children and family related issues. Coordinated joint state devolution project with the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits. Participated in and facilitated group efforts; coalition development; research; training; public speaking.

Mid-Minnesota Legal Assistance, Legislative and Civil Law Attorney 1992-1995

Provided legislative representation for statewide legal services coalition and on behalf of low-income individuals. Practiced law in the areas of public benefits, seniors and family law including domestic violence. Training, public speaking, coalition development, and other community engagement.

Affirmative Action Director St. Cloud Area Legal Services.

Girl Scouts of Minnesota & Wisconsin, Lakes & Pines Human Relations Director/Affirmative Action Officer 1988-1994

Designed, initiated and monitored comprehensive diversity plan; investigated and mediated related issues; conducted trainings; developed nationally recognized education curriculum and training materials; coordinated events; advocacy; community education; and coalition work.

Program Director, Teen Outreach Volunteer Program. Designed and initiated peer education program aimed at preventing detrimental risk-taking behaviors in girls including development of educational curriculum and training materials. Recruited and trained volunteers; fundraising; community education; and coalition work (1988-1989).

Office of the Minnesota Attorney General, Law Clerk 1991-1992

Assisted state in federal and state civil litigation defense in Corrections Division. Drafted appellate briefs and summary judgment memoranda; responded to interrogatories.

Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, Law Clerk 1990-1991

Researched and analyzed issues related to Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

St. Cloud Area Legal Services, Minnesota Justice Foundation Law Clerk 1989-1990

Research and direct client representation; extensive research on housing issues and rights leading to long paper on Establishing a Right to Housing in Minnesota. Volunteer law clerk 1989-1990 academic year. Minnesota Justice Foundation law clerk summer 1990.

Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity, Director **1988-1989**

A founder and the initial director for community-based affordable housing and community building organization; developed partnerships with faith community, non-profits, businesses, and families. Oversaw all efforts including fundraising and management of over 400 volunteers and multiple committees; public relations; board and fiscal management.

YWCA of Maricopa County, Success Express Program Coordinator **1987-1988**

Developed and coordinated federal pregnancy prevention demonstration project. Wrote and implemented curriculum; advocated on child, youth and family issues; recruitment, trainings/public speaking, and supervised staff; fundraised and managed project budget; developed training manuals, policies and procedures; public relations; coalition development; coordinated conferences and events.

Center for Youth Resources dba Tumbleweed

Young Adult Program Coordinator, Individual and Family Counselor **1983-1987**

Designed and coordinated independent living program for homeless older adolescents. Provided individual, family and group counseling services for at risk teenagers and their families; advocacy; coalition development; developed training materials, policies and procedures; conducted trainings; trained and supervised staff; wrote and managed grants; public relations; public speaking. Promoted from Youth Care Worker/Case Worker (1983-1984).

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (additional including): St. Cloud Rotary Board Member, Board & DEI Director; Neighbors For School Excellence Co-Chair, ISD742 Finance Study Group, Levy Leader, Career and Business Partnership; Minnesota Legislative Society Board Member; Wellstone Award Recipient, Athena Award Recipient 2018; St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce, Governmental Affairs Committee; St. Cloud Area League of Women Voters; AAUW. HomeFront Resource Center, Past-Chair; Cloud Area Housing & Redevelopment Authority Commissioner, Treasurer; St. Cloud Economic Development Partnership; Ready 4 K policy, organizing and governance committees; Department of Commerce Advisory Groups on Energy Assistance and Weatherization; Various Department of Human Services Advisory and Ad hoc committees; Minnesota Council of Nonprofits Public Policy Cabinet; Greater Minnesota Housing Fund Board; Great River Roundtable; Early Care and Education Finance Commission; Minnesota Council of Churches' Commission on Life and Work; Great River Interfaith Partnership Organizing Committee; Big Leap for Early Learning; high school youth minister; current and past involvement with many other task forces and coalitions around family, children, senior and veterans issues.

EDUCATION:

William Mitchell College of Law, J.D. Cum Laude **1992**

John F. Kennedy Public Service Scholarship

Arizona State University, M.Ed. Counselor Education **1986**

Drake University, B.A. Sociology, Psychology **1983**

President's Scholarship; Semester Abroad in London, England

Licensed to practice law in Minnesota. Continuing education including: legal, leadership, higher education

**Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
Information Required From Nongovernmental Witnesses**

House rules require nongovernmental witnesses to provide their resume or biographical sketch prior to testifying. If you do not have a resume or biographical sketch available, please complete this form.

1. **Name:** Tarryl Clark

2. **Organization you represent:** Stearns County, Minnesota / National Association of Counties (NACo)

3. **Please list any occupational, employment, or work-related experience you have which add to your qualification to provide testimony before the Committee:** Commissioner Tarryl Clark is an accomplished local official with over 15 years of public service across the state of Minnesota. Commissioner Clark served in the MN Senate Leadership from 2006-2011, and currently serves on the Board of Commissioners for Stearns County, Minnesota. Commissioner Clark also serves in several leadership roles within NACo's Policy Steering Committees, including serving as Chair of the Telecommunications & Technology Policy Steering Committee and serving as Vice Chair of the Agriculture & Rural Affairs Policy Steering Committee. Commissioner Clark also serves as a Board Member of NACo's Broadband Task Force, a group organized to address the issue of the digital divide and the role of county governments in closing the digital gap. Commissioner Clark also serves as a member of the FCC's PrecisionAg Connectivity Task Force's Mapping and Analyzing Connectivity on Agricultural Lands Working Group

4. **Please list any special training, education, or professional experience you have which add to your qualifications to provide testimony before the Committee:** Commissioner Clark served as the Digital Divide/Digital Equity Workgroup Leader on NACo's Broadband Task Force, which convened county officials from across the country to discuss and define the county role in broadband deployment and accessibility

5. **If you are appearing on behalf of an organization, please list the capacity in which you are representing that organization, including any offices or elected positions you hold:** I serve as the First District Commissioner for Stearns County, Minnesota. I also stand before the committee on behalf of NACo as Chair of the Telecommunications & Technology Policy Steering Committee as well as Vice Chair of the Rural Action Caucus

PLEASE ATTACH THIS FORM OR YOUR BIOGRAPHY TO EACH COPY OF TESTIMONY.

Truth in Testimony Disclosure Form

In accordance with Rule XI, clause 2(g)(5)* of the *Rules of the House of Representatives*, witnesses are asked to disclose the following information. Please complete this form electronically by filling in the provided blanks.

Committee: _____

Subcommittee: _____

Hearing Date: _____

Hearing :

Witness Name: _____

Position/Title: _____

Witness Type: Governmental Non-governmental

Are you representing yourself or an organization? Self Organization

If you are representing an organization, please list what entity or entities you are representing:

FOR WITNESSES APPEARING IN A NON-GOVERNMENTAL CAPACITY

Please complete the following fields. If necessary, attach additional sheet(s) to provide more information.

Are you a fiduciary—including, but not limited to, a director, officer, advisor, or resident agent—of any organization or entity that has an interest in the subject matter of the hearing? If so, please list the name of the organization(s) or entities.

Please list any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants or subcontracts) related to the hearing's subject matter that you, the organization(s) you represent, or entities for which you serve as a fiduciary have received in the past thirty-six months from the date of the hearing. Include the source and amount of each grant or contract.

Please list any contracts, grants, or payments originating with a foreign government and related to the hearing's subject that you, the organization(s) you represent, or entities for which you serve as a fiduciary have received in the past thirty-six months from the date of the hearing. Include the amount and country of origin of each contract or payment.

Please complete the following fields. If necessary, attach additional sheet(s) to provide more information.

- I have attached a written statement of proposed testimony.
- I have attached my curriculum vitae or biography.

* Rule XI, clause 2(g)(5), of the U.S. House of Representatives provides:

(5)(A) Each committee shall, to the greatest extent practicable, require witnesses who appear before it to submit in advance written statements of proposed testimony and to limit their initial presentations to the committee to brief summaries thereof.

(B) In the case of a witness appearing in a non-governmental capacity, a written statement of proposed testimony shall include— (i) a curriculum vitae; (ii) a disclosure of any Federal grants or contracts, or contracts, grants, or payments originating with a foreign government, received during the past 36 months by the witness or by an entity represented by the witness and related to the subject matter of the hearing; and (iii) a disclosure of whether the witness is a fiduciary (including, but not limited to, a director, officer, advisor, or resident agent) of any organization or entity that has an interest in the subject matter of the hearing.

(C) The disclosure referred to in subdivision (B)(iii) shall include— (i) the amount and source of each Federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof) related to the subject matter of the hearing; and (ii) the amount and country of origin of any payment or contract related to the subject matter of the hearing originating with a foreign government.

(D) Such statements, with appropriate redactions to protect the privacy or security of the witness, shall be made publicly available in electronic form 24 hours before the witness appears to the extent practicable, but not later than one day after the witness appears.