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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Rep. Swearigen Meets with Broadband Providers in Eagle River**

**Eagle River, WI** – Today, Representative Rob Swearigen (R-Rhineland), along with Senator Tom Tiffany (R-Hazelhurst) met with broadband providers, members of the Wisconsin Public Service Commission and local leaders to discuss the successes of Broadband Expansion Grants in northern Wisconsin.

Since 2014, the Legislature has approved Broadband Expansion Grants to underserved regions in Wisconsin. Today's meeting was an opportunity for local and state leaders to reaffirm their on-going commitment to make broadband expansion a priority in the Northwoods.

Over the past two legislative sessions, the 34<sup>th</sup> Assembly District has been one of the largest recipients of Broadband Expansion Grants throughout the state. Since 2014, the 34<sup>th</sup> Assembly District has received over \$900,000 in Broadband Expansion Grant monies. Moreover, Vilas County alone was allocated approximately \$588,000 in grant monies to expand broadband to rural areas.

*“We live in a technological age; improvements in internet services will directly affect the period of time that guests and tourists will plan vacations in our local communities. As broadband continues to expand throughout Oneida, Vilas, Florence and Forest counties, businesses, schools and residences are able to increase connectivity. Expanded broadband will continue to be an economic driver in the Northwoods,”* said Rep. Swearigen.

In addition to advocating for increased broadband expansion grant funding, both Senator Tiffany and Representative Swearigen serve as legislative members on the Broadband Expansion Stakeholder Group, a consortium of providers, Wisconsin Public Service Commission members and legislators.

*“I am proud of the work that my colleagues and I have accomplished in Madison to fund Broadband Expansion Grants. However, the work is not complete and there are many businesses and homes that still need higher speeds. Senator Tiffany and I will continue to fight for our share of Broadband Expansion Grants in Madison to help our constituents.”*

*I would like to thank the Wisconsin Public Service Commission for travelling to the Northwoods to see the successes of the Broadband Expansion Grants. Thank you for visiting us in Eagle River,”* finished Swearigen.

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