



April 11, 2023

Dear Chair Olson and Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

Metro Cities, representing the shared interests of cities across the metropolitan area, appreciates the opportunity to comment on HF 2310 (Hansen) and HF 2754 (Acomb). Metro Cities supports several provisions in both bills.

Metro Cities supports the \$19.72 million each year for grants to local governments to support local planning and implementing water infrastructure projects that allow for adaptation as the climate changes. Metro Cities supports funding to address PFAS/PFOS such as the \$25 million for grants to support planning, designing, and preparing solutions for public water treatment systems contaminated with PFAS, \$4 million for PFAS reduction grants, and \$4 million to implement a drinking water protection and PFAS response program.

Metro Cities supports the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Response Program and \$9 million for grants to local governments responding to EAB. Metro Cities further supports funding included in the bill for the Minnesota ReLeaf program. Metro Cities supports state funding for programs that create pollinator habitat on both public and private lands such as the Lawns to Legumes program, which is funded with \$4 million in HF 2310. Metro Cities supports state funding for regional parks and trails that is fair, creates a balance of investment across the state, and meets the needs of the region. Metro Cities supports funding in HF 2310 for metropolitan area parks operations and maintenance, modernization, and climate risk mitigation efforts.

Metro Cities supports the \$29.05 million repayment from the general fund into the metropolitan area landfill contingency action trust (MLCAT) account found in HF 2310. Making this account whole will help ensure its ability to address the environmental needs of MLCAT-eligible landfills in the metropolitan region.

Metro Cities supports the Local Climate Action Grant Program established in HF 2754. Cities play an important role in environmental protection and there is increasing interest in the role that cities can play in reducing our carbon footprint and in promoting green development. Grant funding will help support cities as they work to increase their adaptability and resiliency in the face of extreme weather and climate change.

Metro Cities supports legislation that will increase the efficiency of buildings with the goal of reaching net zero energy consumption and supports language in HF 2754 that would have the state adopt an advanced energy building standard for new commercial buildings within the State Building Code. Finally, Metro Cities supports the establishment of the Minnesota State Competitiveness Fund so that the state, local governments, and other eligible entities can maximize their ability to be awarded federal funds for energy projects.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mike Lund  
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Metro Cities