



March 3, 2021

Re: HF 819 – Funding appropriated for redevelopment grant and demolition loans, Minnesota Investment Fund, and Job Creation Fund

Chair Noor and members of the House Workforce and Business Development Finance and Policy Committee:

The League of Minnesota Cities appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the importance of continued and sustainable investment in programs that support redevelopment efforts, job creation, and business expansion. We support the provisions in HF 819 that fully fund the Minnesota Job Creation Fund (JCF) and the Minnesota Investment Fund (MIF) as well as provide additional funding for the Redevelopment Grant Program and Demolition Loan Program,

MIF and JCF are crucial programs that provide funding opportunities for communities and businesses to develop local and regional economies by creating infrastructure, revitalizing property, and generating jobs. Full funding for these two programs will continue to bolster local community efforts to create, grow, and retain jobs.

The League is also pleased that the bill includes funding for Redevelopment Grants and Demolition Loans. Redevelopment grants are a key flexible state resource that assist cities across the state with the costs of redeveloping blighted land and repurposing it for productive use. Demolition Loans help cities with the cost of removing blighted buildings and preparing sites for future development. Robust funding for both programs will facilitate more economic growth through redevelopment.

These well utilized programs create infrastructure, revitalize property, and help businesses generate and expand jobs to support the growth of local and regional economies. We urge members to support HF 819 and commit to providing continued and sustainable funding for these key programs.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel Lightfoot". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daniel Lightfoot
Intergovernmental Relations Representative
League of Minnesota Cities

«Name»
«Date»
Page 2