



February 14, 2022

Chair Marquart and House Tax Committee Members ~

On behalf of the Minnesota Association of Small Cities (MAOSC), we write today to express our full support of H.F. 2810, which would provide 2021 aid that had been withheld to the small city of Echo, Minnesota (pop. 255).

In the calendar year 2021, Echo's aid payments were withheld due to an administrative error made by the city; remittances that could - and would - have been used to develop the city's fundamental services and resources. Amid the global pandemic and unforeseen staffing changes, the city of Echo faced administrative challenges that have since been addressed and corrective measures have been taken. These funds are needed to maintain the high quality of constituent services the city of Echo is committed to providing to their residents. This legislation would simply return the \$46,060 from LGA and Small Cities Assistance funds that were withheld.

MN Small Cities advocates on behalf of Minnesota's 700+ cities with populations under 5,000. We support policies that aim to improve our cities, and allow local city leaders to make decisions for their communities, while giving them access to the resources they need. We reaffirm our full support of H.F. 2810, as the city of Echo and its constituents will greatly benefit from it.

  
Cap O'Rourke  
Executive Director  
MN Small Cities