

June 21, 2021

**Re: LMC Comments for A21 DE Amendment to HF 5.**

Chair Moran and members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

The League of Minnesota Cities appreciates the opportunity to comment on the A21 DE amendment to HF 5 and the work that Chairs Hansen and Ingebrigtsen and the other previous conference committee and working group members have done to complete this proposal and to hear and understand local government concerns along the way. The League supports passage of the A21 amendment and of HF 5, as amended.

There are a number of items in the proposal that are of particular importance to cities:

- PFAS Source Reduction Initiative (Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 2(k); In. 4.19-5.33). This language is based on language proposed in HF 1155 from the 2021 Regular Session, which was supported by the League. We very much appreciate it being included in the final agreement as a way to collect information and reduction options that can be used to develop a qualified pre-treatment program for PFAS compounds moving through wastewater treatment facilities. It adds a review of sources of PFAS in solid waste, which also needs an assessment of how to reduce PFAS levels in final treatment systems.
- SCORE Recycling Grants (Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 7(d); In. 12.1-12.3). Increasing the county grants available for recycling to \$18.45 million per year provides a badly needed increase to local solid waste management programs. While the grants initially go to counties, many cities operate programs that receive portions of those funds.
- Local Government and Tribal Water Infrastructure Grants (Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 7(h); In. 12.21-12.28). These funds will be used to help develop plans for local government infrastructure needed to deal with changing temperatures, precipitation levels, and storm severity. Paired with future bonding allocations, this will be essential as cities struggle to adapt to those changing conditions.
- EAB Grants (Art. 1, Sec. 3, Subd. 4(j); In. 22,26-23.22). Grants to local government for planning and implementation of management plans related to emerald ash borer are very badly needed. This section not only provides continued support as this pest rapidly spreads in the state, but establishes a base that keeps the issue in front of the legislature for future funding consideration.
- Mount Simon-Hinckley Aquifer (Art. 2, Sec. 81; In. 90.19-90.27). Preserving the state's purest aquifer for our highest priority water uses is a good move to be prepared to meet future water needs of the state.
- Bulk Water Sales (Art. 2, Sec. 82; In. 90.2891.11). This language provides needed protection of state groundwater supplies for use by future generations for the state's highest priority water uses. Public water supplies could have been at risk without this language.
- Mississippi River Critical Corridor Area (Art. 2, Sec. 100-101; In. 108.28-110.17). These changes clarify and streamline the coordination of local planning and regulatory requirements in the MRCCA area between the state, Met Council, and cities and townships.

In addition to the many other important agency and department programs funded through this budget proposal, it also appropriates the funds normally released annually for projects funded through the

environment and natural resources trust fund, which included numerous local projects that were in danger of being lost due to delays in funding availability.

The League very much appreciates the number of city concerns addressed in this bill and looks forward to continuing to work with the legislature, the administration, and other stakeholders to carry out the work laid out in this legislation. Please feel free to contact me if there are any questions related to these comments.

Sincerely,

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

Craig A. Johnson  
Intergovernmental Relations Representative