



May 2, 2023

Dear Members of the Housing Conference Committee:

Metro Cities, representing the shared interests of cities across the metropolitan area, appreciates the opportunity to comment on provisions in the omnibus housing bills that will be considered by the committee.

Metro Cities supports several housing programs, initiatives and resources for FY24-25 as follows:

- Challenge Program: \$75.85 million-House, \$125.85 million-Senate.
- Housing infrastructure bonds authorization: \$66.6 million-House, \$250 million-Senate.
- Housing infrastructure appropriation: \$185 million-House, \$100 million-Senate.
- Local housing trust funds: \$7.7 million-House, \$10 million-Senate.
- First generation homebuyer down payment assistance: \$150 million House, \$100 million-Senate.
- Homebuyer education, counseling, training programs: \$3.7 million-House, \$4.7 million-Senate.
- Community Stabilization (NOAH preservation grants): \$150 million-House, \$100 million-Senate.
- Homeownership Assistance Fund: \$1.77 million-House, \$26.77 million-Senate.
- Housing Cost Reduction Incentive Program: \$2.5 million-Senate.

Metro Cities supports the creation of housing aid for local governments in the House bill, with the flexibility to allow cities to transfer housing aid into a local housing trust fund. Further, Metro Cities supports state funding for rental assistance included in the Senate bill.

Metro Cities opposes language in the House bill that establishes a 0.25% metropolitan region sales tax for housing needs. Metro Cities' policies oppose substituting funding for programs serving statewide objectives and traditionally funded with state revenues, such as housing, with local tax sources, or funding mechanisms that would disparately affect taxpayers in the metropolitan region.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

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

Ania McDonnell
Government Relations Specialist