



April 16, 2024

Chair Howard and Members, Housing Finance and Policy Committee:

Metro Cities, representing the shared interests of cities across the metropolitan area, appreciates the opportunity to comment on provisions in HF 4194 – Howard, as amended, the omnibus Housing Finance bill.

Metro Cities supports the capital appropriation of \$50 million for Housing Infrastructure Bonds included in HF 4194. Housing Infrastructure Bonds leverage local, federal, and private investments and spur development in our communities. These are used to develop and preserve permanent and supportive housing, preserve federally assisted rental housing, provide affordable housing for our seniors, finance housing with rents affordable to households with incomes at or below 50% AMI, and support the acquisition and rehabilitation of foreclosed or abandoned property.

Metro Cities supports increased, sustainable, and adequate state funding for programs that serve a range of housing needs. This includes robust funding for the Community Stabilization program to preserve naturally occurring affordable housing, as well as the Housing Infrastructure program.

Metro Cities supports the inclusion of language in Article 3 section 1 which prohibits landlords from discriminating against a tenant based on their source of income.

First, second, and third-class metropolitan cities receiving local affordable housing aid are planning for how to use their housing aid to advance local affordable housing efforts. Metro Cities acknowledges language in Article 2, section 37 that would require cities receiving this aid to submit an annual report on locally funded housing expenditures. The reporting requirement will increase administrative and staff costs for local governments, and as such, Metro Cities would encourage consideration of a sunset date for the reporting requirement for locally funded housing expenditures.

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