



March 20, 2025

Chair Putnam and Members of the Senate Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development Committee,

Metro Cities, representing the shared interests of cities across the metropolitan area at the Legislature and Executive Branch, appreciates the opportunity to comment on SF 2045 – Rest.

Metro Cities supports language in the bill that would allow local governments to require franchise fees from a provider furnishing broadband and to receive compensation for the use of the public right-of-way. Local units of government contribute to increasing broadband capacity and ensuring internet connectivity, reliability, and availability.

Metro Cities supports legislation authorizing cities to franchise broadband/internet service providers (ISPs) in the public right-of-way and to collect franchise fees from these providers. Broadband franchising will allow a city to require equal access to the same quality of broadband service throughout a city, to require reasonable build-out and system upgrades of broadband systems, to require uniform pricing and other customer service requirements, as well as other public benefits.

Finally, Metro Cities supports the use of franchise fees on broadband or other dedicated funding to support local community television, which has seen declining funding from cable franchise fees and public, educational, and governmental (PEG) access fees as consumers switch to internet-based streaming over traditional cable tv service.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Ania McDonnell'.

Ania McDonnell  
Government Relations Specialist

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Mike Lund'.

Mike Lund  
Government Relations Specialist