



April 15, 2026

Chairs and Members of the House Housing Finance and Policy 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 HF 1141 - Howard, as amended by the DE2 amendment.

Metro Cities supports Article 1, Section 3 and Article 2 in the DE2 amendment which provide additional state funding for housing programs. Current funding levels for housing are insufficient to meet the spectrum of housing needs in the metropolitan region and across the state.

Article 1, Section 3 Housing Education Counseling and Training Program (HECAT)

Metro Cities supports \$150,000 in additional funding for the HECAT program as it is an important part of supporting the spectrum of housing needs in the region. This program helps avoid foreclosures, improves homeownership rates, and supports the financial wellness of future homeowners so they are aware of their rights, options, and costs associated with owning a home.

Article 2 Housing Infrastructure Bonds

Metro Cities supports the addition of \$100 million in Housing Infrastructure Bonds which would provide a critical source of funding for cities to maintain and increase their supply of affordable housing. These resources are essential to provide additional housing across the metropolitan region.

We look forward to continuing to work with the committee to address affordable housing needs. Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ania McDonnell'.

Ania McDonnell
Government Relations Specialist