



April 9, 2026

Chair Rest and Members of the Senate Taxes 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 4394 – Port which would extend the Local Affordable Housing Aid (LAHA) spending timeline from four years to six years for a qualifying affordable housing project.

The Local Affordable Housing Aid program was enacted in 2023 as a 0.25% metropolitan area regional sales tax to cities over 10,000 in population in the metropolitan region, with cities having received the first distribution of funds in 2024.

Metro Cities policies support the extension of the LAHA spending timeline for a qualifying affordable housing project to support the ability for cities to accumulate additional funds for larger, locally determined projects that fill local housing gaps. This is particularly beneficial for cities receiving lower annual LAHA funding that have specific identified needs.

In the interest of maximizing these resources locally, Metro Cities also continues to support allowing LAHA funds deposited in a local housing trust fund as being considered expended.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

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

Ania McDonnell
Government Relations Specialist