



April 3, 2023

Dear Chair Gomez and Members of the House Taxes Committee:

Metro Cities, representing the collective interests of cities in the metropolitan area, appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on several provisions contained in HF 2887 (Hornstein).

Metro Cities supports the full dedication of auto parts sales tax revenue that will benefit Municipal State Aid Streets (MSAS) eligible cities along with other recipients of Highway User Tax Distribution Fund dollars. Metro Cities also supports funding for the Small Cities Assistance Account in the bill as cities under 5,000 in population do not receive dedicated transportation funding. Metro Cities also continues to support the creation of a Large Cities Account to support more flexibility by larger cities in meeting transportation needs that cannot be addressed solely through MSAS.

Metro Cities supports stable and predictable revenue sources to fund operating and capital expenses for transit needs across the region and supports the increase in the Motor Vehicle Sales Tax (MVST) that will generate additional funding for transit in the metropolitan region.

While not directly within the jurisdiction of the Taxes Committee, Metro Cities has concerns with provisions in HF 2882 that would statutorily prescribe highly specific climate action content requirements for local comprehensive plans of metropolitan cities. The requirement would create a one-size-fits-all mandate and impede longstanding regional and local collaboration that goes into setting plan requirements.

Metro Cities acknowledges language in the bill that establishes a legislative task force to make recommendations for regional governance and appreciates the inclusion of municipal officials on the task force. Metro Cities encourages additional municipal representation to reflect the number of cities in the region and to recognize that cities are responsible for the implementation of the majority of regional policies.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Lund". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Lund".

Mike Lund
Government Relations Specialist