



January 10, 2023

Representative Zack Stephenson, Chair, House Commerce Finance and Policy Committee
545 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Stephenson and Members of the Commerce Committee:

Metro Cities, representing the collective interests of cities in the metropolitan area appreciates the opportunity to comment on HF 100 (Stephenson) as it is considered in the Commerce Finance and Policy Committee on Wednesday.

Metro Cities has specific concerns with the bill as it relates to roles and responsibilities for local governments, specifically on regulation and the provision as well as cost of local public services.

Article 1, Section 13 of the bill would strip the ability of cities to provide local oversight and regulation on the sale of cannabis. Metro Cities supports cities maintaining the authority to license adult-use cannabis retailers, including the authority of cities to opt out of authorizing the sale of products in their local jurisdiction. Local licensing and regulation are vital in managing local enforcement of state laws, and for the provision of public safety.

Metro Cities appreciates the inclusion of municipal representatives on the Cannabis Advisory Council and the requirement for the Office of Cannabis Management to conduct an annual report that includes information on recommended funding levels for peace officer training. State appropriations in HF 100 must recognize the additional financial and local staffing pressures adult-use cannabis legalization will put on cities and local law enforcement agencies.

Metro Cities stands ready to work with the bill's author, members of this committee, and other stakeholders to ensure any regulatory framework developed for adult-use cannabis involves input by city officials and addresses the needs of local governments.

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.

Michael Lund
Government Relations Specialist
Metro Cities