



March 16, 2023

**Re: HF 2405, HF 2406 – increased coordination for federal infrastructure funds and establishment of an Infrastructure Resiliency Advisory Task Force**

Dear Chair Klevorn, Vice Chair Huot and members of the House State and Local Government Finance and Policy Committee:

On behalf of our 837 member cities, the League of Minnesota Cities appreciates the opportunity to provide our comments in support of the Chair Koegel’s HF 2405 and HF 2406. Both HF 2405 and HF 2406 will help assist cities with access to information and federal funding resources to assist with the improvement and resiliency of local infrastructure. Historic levels of federal infrastructure funding in conjunction with increased strain on existing infrastructure has made coordination between state and local governments key to ensure that all cities regardless of size or project have access to information and funding opportunities to address infrastructure needs.

The establishment of an Infrastructure Resilience Advisory Task Force (HF 2405), which is modeled after successful infrastructure task forces in other states, will provide for additional stakeholder coordination and management of state and local infrastructure. The task force will help identify new approaches to enhance sustainability and resiliency of local infrastructure and maximize federal formula and discretionary grant funding opportunities. We are hopeful that the establishment of the task force will create additional efficiencies when it comes to managing local infrastructure needs and assist cities in ensuring existing and new infrastructure is climate resilient.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Inflation Reduction Act provided once-in-a-generation investment in infrastructure and climate resiliency including numerous new and existing infrastructure grant opportunities through both formula and discretionary grants. To maximize these historic investments, it is critical that we have state and local coordination. HF 2406 will provide resources for a Federal Infrastructure Funds Coordinator, which will assist state agencies in maximizing the effectiveness of federal funds and local government applicants in accessing federal infrastructure fund information.

Please join us in support of HF 2405 and HF 2406.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Daniel Lightfoot'.

Daniel Lightfoot  
Intergovernmental Relations Representative  
League of Minnesota Cities