



March 12, 2024

Chair Howard and Members of the 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 4555 – Howard, a bill that requires metropolitan cities receiving local affordable housing aid to maintain locally funded housing expenditures at a level that is not less than the average level of expenditures for the three preceding fiscal years.

Metro Cities appreciates and supports local affordable housing aid to assist cities with advancing local affordable housing efforts. However, Metro Cities opposes the maintenance of effort requirement as proposed in HF 4555, as it would impede local decision making and considerations over local budgeting as well as taxing processes. Restrictions undermine local decisions on fiscal issues and planned growth as well as the relationship between locally elected officials and their residents, by allowing the state to decide the appropriate level of local taxation and services, despite varying local conditions and circumstances.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

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

Ania McDonnell  
Government Relations Specialist