



March 14, 2022

Re: Support for H.F. 2200

Dear Chair Hansen and members of the Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Division:

The League of Minnesota Cities appreciates the opportunity to submit comments supporting H.F. 2200 to the committee. Cities are having to work fast to identify places where changing weather and precipitation are affecting or endangering public infrastructure, as well as residential and commercial properties. Having state assistance to finance those plans is something that cities have specifically requested during our policy development process over the past year.

Ideally, the information obtained through these plans would then generate a list of state projects that are known to be needed and effective steps to mitigate climate-related infrastructure issues in communities. The agency has proposed capital investment funds for that purpose in other legislation, which the League also supports. However, regardless of whether that proposal goes forward, this planning information and the funding to do it are badly needed.

We appreciate the work of the MPCA, the author, and the committee to consider what resources cities will need as the intensity of rain events increases in ways that exceed the design capacity of our current infrastructure. Please consider including an appropriation for these grants in the committee's supplemental budget recommendations for the 2022 session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig A. Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Craig A. Johnson
Intergovernmental Relations Representative
League of Minnesota Cities



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March 9, 2022

Chair Hansen and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to share our enthusiastic support for Rep. Samantha Vang's House File 2200.

This bill would increase the ability of local governments to curb their greenhouse gas emissions and to prepare for and adapt to climate change.

Minnesota's cities and local governments are leaders in our state's response to climate change. Since 2013, thirteen cities and one county have created climate action plans. These plans are as unique as the local governments that created them. While virtually all of them include greenhouse gas emissions inventories and reduction strategies, many go further, **designing approaches to climate adaptation, planning for community resilience, emergency preparedness, and reducing racial disparities & population vulnerabilities.**

The thirteen cities and one county have created climate action plans are:

- Minneapolis, MN, adopted June 28, 2013
- Saint Louis Park, MN, adopted February 5, 2018
- Grand Marais, MN, adopted June 26, 2019
- Northfield, MN, adopted November 5, 2019
- Saint Paul, MN, adopted December 18, 2019
- Eden Prairie, MN, adopted March 7, 2020
- Red Wing, MN, adopted August 10, 2020
- Richfield, MN, adopted October 13, 2020
- Burnsville, MN, adopted November 2, 2020
- Hennepin County, adopted May 4, 2020
- Albert Lea, MN, adopted June 29, 2021
- Rochester, MN, released Autumn, 2021
- Edina, MN, adopted December 7, 2021
- Duluth, MN, released February 4, 2022

By planning collaboratively at the local level, counties, cities, townships, and school districts are able to address their particular needs while building stakeholder support.

In other words, **local climate action planning works.**

House File 2200 would support more cities and local governments that choose to create climate action plans by creating a grant program at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency that would award grants of up to \$50,000 to local governments in Minnesota who wish to create a climate action plan.

This program would build on the agency's successful work in recent years using its Environmental Assistance Grants Program to support local government planning and sustainability programs.

We strongly support this expanded program. If you want to learn more about City Climate Action Plans, **please see our recent report** '[City Climate Action Plans in Minnesota: Overview and Review](#)' by Dr. Kate Knuth. It provides a comprehensive state of play on the thirteen cities and one county that have created plans.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Conry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Chris Conry
Campaign Director
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