



March 9, 2021

Members, House Housing Committee

Dear Chair Hausman and Members,

Metro Cities appreciates the opportunity to comment on HF 528 – Howard, legislation that supports local funding efforts to meet local identified housing needs.

Cities in the metro area have recently reviewed and determined local housing needs as part of their 2040 comprehensive plan updates. Local plans were updated to include supportive policies and funding sources that will help cities meet current as well as future housing demands.

The state match included in this bill will help cities that currently have trust funds to amplify local dollars as funds are raised and trust fund balances are spent. The state match will also provide an incentive for other cities to establish trust funds.

New construction is needed to meet growing demand for homes in cities across the region. Many cities apply to Minnesota Housing for dollars to close the final gap in constructing a new residential development. Unfortunately, state funds are significantly oversubscribed. This means local projects that meet local housing demand, that have local funds lined up, and that have neighborhood support cannot cross the finish line. The funding in HF 528 as well as other housing funding bills being considered by this committee can make the difference in thousands of units being preserved and built across the state.

Metro Cities thanks the committee for its consideration of HF 528 and encourages the committee's support of the bill.

Respectfully,

Charlie Vander Aarde
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