



March 8, 2023

Re: HF 2405, HF 2406, and HF 2499 – increased coordination for federal infrastructure funds, Infrastructure Resiliency Advisory Task Force, and small community partnership on infrastructure projects

Dear Chair Koegel, Vice Chair Curran and members of the House Sustainable Infrastructure 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's HF 2405, HF 2406, and HF 2499. HF 2406 and HF 2499 respectively will assist cities with accessing federal infrastructure funding by providing additional state-local coordination on federal infrastructure funding opportunities with the creation of a federal infrastructure funds coordinator (HF 2406), and the establishment of the small community partnerships program to assist small less-resourced cities (HF 2499).

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.

In addition to increased coordination, HF 2499 provides important resources to small communities considering infrastructure projects. The bill provides \$2.5 million in fiscal year 2024 and 2025 to establish a small community partnership program to support small communities considering methods to address climate resiliency and sustainability projects as well as project coordination to improve efficiencies. We appreciate the resources in HF 2499 that supports local units of government in their efforts to address their sustainability, resiliency, and climate adaptation goals for local infrastructure.

Lastly, 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.

Please join us in support of HF 2405, HF 2406, and HF 2499.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel Lightfoot". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daniel Lightfoot
Intergovernmental Relations Representative
League of Minnesota Cities