



May 2, 2025

Chairs and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

Metro Cities, representing the shared interests of cities across the metropolitan area, appreciates the opportunity to comment on HF 2440 – Pinto, the omnibus Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance bill.

Metro Cities has significant concerns with the base funding cuts to economic development programs in the bill. The economic viability of the metropolitan area is enhanced by an array of economic development tools that create infrastructure, revitalize previously developed property, provide incentives for business development, support technological advances, support a trained workforce, and address disparities in economic development and workforce development. These programs ultimately enhance regional and state competitiveness in a global marketplace.

Metro Cities has long supported funding for the Job Creation Fund, Minnesota Investment Fund, Contaminated Site Cleanup & Investigation Grants, the Job Skills Partnership Program, and the Redevelopment Grant Program. These funds are critical to supporting economic development, redevelopment, and workforce training programs in the metropolitan area.

Redevelopment of properties supports community vibrancy and revitalization and increases the local property tax base, provides more efficient use of new or existing public infrastructure (including public transit), reduces urban sprawl, and enhances the livability of neighborhoods. Jobs are created three times – at demolition and cleanup, during construction, and ongoing jobs tied to the new use. Economic development programs, including the Job Creation Fund and the Minnesota Investment Fund, support new and expanding businesses, infrastructure development and public-private partnerships.

These cuts will have significant impacts for cities across the metropolitan area seeking funds to address these needs. We urge you reconsider the funding cuts to these vital programs.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

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

Ania McDonnell
Government Relations Specialist