



February 14, 2023

Rep. Ginny Klevorn  
581 State Office Building  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

**RE: Support for HF 1213 (Acomb) - Political subdivision compensation limit repealed**

Dear Rep. Klevorn,

On behalf of the Municipal Legislative Commission (MLC), a coalition of 19 suburban communities, I write in support of HF 1213 which repeals the salary cap for local units of government.

The MLC strongly believes locally elected officials are in the best position to determine the needs of their communities, and as such, supports policies that empower these officials to do so. One such decision is the ability for local officials to determine compensation of city employees. Currently, Minnesota law limits salaries of city employees to 110% of the governor's salary, without a waiver from the state. The law was put into place in 1997, repealed in 1980, and reinstated in 1983.

This artificial salary cap puts cities at a disadvantage when attracting and retaining talented high level individuals to help lead their cities. Minnesota cities face significant challenges competing nationally, as we are the only state in the country that has a local government salary cap.

Further, the salary cap law has also not been applied in a uniform way – exemptions have been granted for school districts, hospitals, clinics and HMOs owned by political subdivisions, and most recently, the Metropolitan Airports Commission.

We would like to thank Representative Acomb for her leadership in addressing this issue and offering a solution to equip localities with an additional tool necessary to attract and retain the best talent. The MLC looks forward to working with the bill author and supporting this legislation as it moves forward.

Sincerely,

James Hovland  
Chair, MLC  
Mayor, City of Edina