



January 10, 2023

Dear Chair Hansen and Members of the House Environment Committee:

Metro Cities, representing the shared interests of cities across the metropolitan area, appreciates the opportunity to comment on HF 207 (Tabke). Metro Cities supports this bill.

Pollinator insects lose food and nesting sites needed for survival when native vegetation is replaced by roadways, manicured lawns, crops, and non-native gardens. Converting traditional grass lawns has been identified as a way to increase pollinator habitat.

Metro Cities supports funding for the Lawns to Legumes program, which provides grants to private homeowners to convert traditional lawns to pollinator friendly landscapes. Metro Cities further supports expanding eligibility of this program to include municipally owned property and would encourage the committee to consider adding this eligibility.

A map produced by the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources identifies much of the metropolitan area as having a high potential for rusty patched bumble bees. Residents and local officials are eager to make use of Lawns to Legumes grant funding to help protect the Minnesota state bee and other pollinator insects.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael Lund'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Michael' being larger and more prominent than the last name 'Lund'.

Mike Lund
Government Relations Specialist
Metro Cities