



February 25, 2025

Dear Chair Quam and Members, Elections and Government Operations Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HF 1329-Koznick, relating to the governance structure of the Metropolitan Council. Metro Cities represents the shared interests of cities in the metropolitan region at the Legislature, Executive Branch and Metropolitan Council. Cities in the metropolitan region are responsible for implementing the majority of policies and requirements set by the Metropolitan Council, and as such are considered to be its primary constituency.

Metro Cities supports the existence of a regional government for the purposes of facilitating region wide planning services that cannot be as effectively provided by local governments or the state and that support orderly growth of the region and the provision of regional infrastructure. The association's policies emphasize the need for regional and local coordination across the scope of regional policymaking that recognizes local determination and autonomy.

Metro Cities policies support the gubernatorial appointment of Metropolitan Council members and supports four-year staggered terms for members of the Council. Metro Cities opposes local officials serving on the Metropolitan Council due to the inherent incompatibilities associated with these offices. Metro Cities supports the Transportation Advisory Board and would oppose its elimination. Metro Cities would further oppose expanding the size of the Metropolitan Council to 44 members as proposed in the bill.

Metro Cities supports modifications to the statutory process for nominating members to the Council, namely expanding the size of the nominating committee and representation of local officials on the committee to provide additional local input into the selection of members.

Metro Cities further supports increasing transparency for Council member appointments, including making public all nominations and allowing for a public comment period before the gubernatorial appointment of Council members.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HF 1329.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Patricia Nauman'.

Patricia Nauman
Executive Director