



April 7, 2021

Re: HF 1342 – House Workforce and Business Development Finance and Policy Omnibus Bill

Chair Noor and members of the House Workforce and Business Development Finance and Policy Committee:

On behalf of our 835 member cities, The League of Minnesota Cities appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on HF 1342, the House Workforce and Business Development Finance and Policy Omnibus bill as amended by the DE A21-0147 amendment.

Business Development Public Infrastructure: Article 1, section 2

The League appreciates base level funding for the Minnesota business development public infrastructure grant program that provides assistance to cities for the cost of public infrastructure needed to bolster local economic growth, retain and create jobs.

Minnesota Investment Fund (MIF) and Job Creation Fund (JCF): Article 1, section 2

MIF and JCF are crucial programs that provide funding opportunities for communities and businesses to develop local and regional economies by creating infrastructure, revitalizing property, and generating jobs. Full funding for these two programs would continue to bolster local community efforts to create, grow, and retain jobs. We are deeply concerned with the \$9,240,000 cut to MIF over the next biennium as well as the \$1 million cut to JCF over the next biennium. The League strongly urges that funding for the Minnesota Investment Fund and Job Creation Fund remain at least at base level funding for the biennium rather than the cuts currently outlined in the bill.

Redevelopment Program: Article 1, section 2

The League of Minnesota Cities appreciates the funding outlined in the bill for the Redevelopment Program. However, we are disappointed that the appropriations outlined in the bill come at the expense of cuts to the Minnesota Investment Fund. We encourage the provision of base level funding for this important resource that doesn't rely on cuts to existing programs.

Minnesota Job Creation Fund Flexibility: Article 3, section 3

The League of Minnesota Cities appreciates the flexibility provided in Article 3, section 3 of the bill that allows Minnesota Job Creation Fund projects flexibility for an additional one-year period to meet minimum program capital investment requirements.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Daniel Lightfoot'.

Daniel Lightfoot

Intergovernmental Relations Representative
League of Minnesota Cities