



February 7, 2023

Dear Chair Howard and Members of the House Housing Finance and Policy Committee,

Metro Cities, representing the collective interests of cities in the metropolitan area, supports HF 11 (Howard), which establishes a state rental assistance program.

Metro Cities' policies support state funded housing programs, including housing and rental assistance to support affordability in the region.

State funding is a major and necessary component for the provision of housing. Current resource levels are insufficient to meet the spectrum of needs in the metropolitan region and across the state. State policies and funding should recognize that affordable housing options that are accessible to jobs and meet the needs of a city's workforce are important to the economic competitiveness of cities and the metro region. In addition, significant housing related racial disparities persist in Minnesota, especially as it relates to the percentage of households of color who pay more than 30 percent of their income in housing costs. A new state rental assistance program will support communities in providing much needed affordable and stable rental housing across the region.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ania McDonnell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ania McDonnell
Government Relations Specialist
Metro Cities