



May 11, 2022

To Conferees of SF 4091, the Omnibus Jobs, Energy and Commerce policy and supplemental appropriations bill:

Metro Cities, representing the shared interests of cities across the seven-county metropolitan region, appreciates the opportunity to comment on provisions in the omnibus bill.

Metro Cities supports funding included in the House bill for the Redevelopment Grant and Demolition Loan Program. This program has a successful record of attracting millions of dollars in private investments through relatively modest state funds under this program. Reusing previously developed land has many public benefits and is efficient. The program helps cities revitalize downtowns, increase their local property tax base, and creates good-paying jobs. (Appropriations p. R14, House)

Metro Cities supports the flexibility to meet minimum capital investment requirements, wage, or minimum job creation goals or requirements for businesses receiving Minnesota Investment Fund and Job Creation Fund awards. (Appropriations p. R18, Senate)

The association appreciates funding included in the House bill for accessible childcare, workforce development, closing economic disparities by investing in lower-income communities, investing in small businesses, and supporting COVID relief.

Access to affordable childcare is a significant need in the metropolitan region. The funding in this bill will help families address their needs and boost local economies. (Appropriations p. R11, House)

Metro Cities supports the funds for workforce development to help train workers to gain important skills that match available jobs in the region. (Appropriations p. R4-R6, House)

Closing economic disparities is important to a racially diversifying region. This bill's investments in small businesses, emerging developers, and people of color will help grow a strong regional economy through participation by more of the region's residents. (Appropriations p. R2-R3, House)

Metro Cities thanks the committee for its focus on local, regional, and statewide economies and supporting investments in people and employers. We urge the legislature to fund these programs in its supplemental budget for FY 2023-24.

Thank you for your consideration of Metro Cities' comments.

Respectfully,

Charlie Vander Aarde
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