



February 28, 2025

**Re: HF 483 and 484 – Preemption of Local Authority of Natural Gas**

Chair Quam and members of the House Elections Finance and Government Operations Committee:

The League of Minnesota Cities appreciates the opportunity to comment on HF 483 and HF 484. We respectfully do not agree that removing the authority for local elected officials to make decisions on the future of the cities they were elected to govern is the best way to handle issues where there are diverging opinions on solutions.

As cities plan what types of infrastructure and development can meet their needs, especially as they strive to meet state and local environmental, energy, and climate goals, they need as many tools as possible. Loss of this authority could also create potential public safety and state regulatory conflicts, as cities could not, under these proposed changes, adopt ordinances to accomplish those mandates.

Cities take their responsibilities to plan for economic development, meeting state and federal regulations, and balancing the often-competing concerns of property owners very seriously. Local opposition to any of those plans is best addressed locally through a community public input process, where local officials can respond to their constituents and provide findings of fact supporting those decisions.

Proactively and very broadly prohibiting local authority in this manner is not an approach that respects that sincere work and the ability of local elected officials to lead their communities.

Please do not limit the authority of local elected officials in this manner.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Craig A. Johnson'.

Craig A. Johnson  
Sr. Intergovernmental Relations Representative  
League of Minnesota Cities