



March 29, 2023

Dear Chair Hassan and Members of the House Economic Development Finance and Policy Committee:

Metro Cities, representing the shared interests of cities across the metropolitan area, appreciates the opportunity to comment on HF 3028 – Hassan, as amended by the DE amendment.

Metro Cities supports resources in the bill that addresses funding for the Minnesota Investment Fund and the Job Creation Fund. These programs support new and expanding businesses through providing financing to help add new workers and retain high-quality jobs on a statewide basis, and financial incentives that meet certain job creation and capital investment targets.

Metro Cities supports the inclusion of funding for the Redevelopment Grants Program and the Demolition Loan Program at the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED). However, we would like to see an increase to the base funding for this program.

Redevelopment facilitates the re-use of previously developed land, thereby leveling the playing field between greenfield and brownfield sites so that a developer can choose to locate on land that has already been used. Redeveloping properties supports community vibrancy and revitalization.

Redevelopment increases local property tax bases, increases land values, provides more efficient use of new or existing public infrastructure (including public transit), reduces urban sprawl, and enhances the livability of neighborhoods. Jobs are created three times – at demolition and cleanup, during construction, and ongoing jobs tied to the new use.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. Please contact me if you have any questions.

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