



April 11, 2023

Dear Chair Olson and Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

Metro Cities appreciates the opportunity to comment on several provisions contained in HF 2887 (Hornstein).

Metro Cities supports the full dedication of auto parts sales tax revenue that will benefit Municipal State Aid Streets (MSAS) eligible cities. Metro Cities also supports funding for the Small Cities Assistance Account in the bill. Metro Cities continues to support the creation of a Large Cities Account.

Other funding provisions in HF 2887 supported by Metro Cities include:

- Trunk highway bond funding for the Corridors of Commerce program to help increase capacity, advance economic growth, and more efficient transportation of goods.
- The increase in the Motor Vehicle Sales Tax (MVST) that will generate additional funding for transit in the metropolitan region.
- \$3 million each year for payments to deputy registrars, with aid being allocated proportionately. Metro Cities supports increases to existing transaction fee levels to ensure that local deputy registrars can sufficiently function and meet evolving service needs.
- \$14.5 million for the purchase of a new helicopter for the State Patrol and \$1.7 million for staff and equipment costs of pilots for the State Patrol. The use of air support has proven highly effective in the metropolitan region in addressing issues like street racing and carjacking.
- The establishment of a Federal Transportation Grants Technical Assistance Program, the establishment of an Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program, and the inclusion of Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) discretionary matching funds.

While not directly within the jurisdiction of the Ways and Means Committee, Metro Cities has concerns with provisions in HF 2882 that would statutorily prescribe highly specific climate action content for metropolitan city comp plans, creating a mandate that impedes regional and local collaboration.

Metro Cities also acknowledges the establishment of a legislative task force on regional governance. Metro Cities encourages additional municipal representation to reflect the number of cities in the region, as well as that cities are responsible for the implementation of many regional policies.

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

Sincerely,

Mike Lund  
Government Relations Specialist