



March 15, 2023

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

Metro Cities, representing the collective interests of cities in the metropolitan area, supports HF 1920 (Kozlowski), which provides funding for the Redevelopment Grants Program and the Demolition Loan Program at the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED).

Metro Cities' policies support increased and sustained state funds for DEED-administered programs like the Redevelopment Grant and Demolition Loan Program that support metropolitan area projects.

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.

Providing additional funding to these programs will support our cities in their efforts to implement economic development projects to further enhance our regional economy in the metropolitan area and across the state.

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