



May 2, 2023

Dear Members of the Economic Development, Jobs, and Labor Conference Committee:

Metro Cities, representing the shared interests of cities across the metropolitan area, appreciates the opportunity to comment on the omnibus economic development, jobs, and labor bill before this committee.

Metro Cities supports several funding items included in both bills. This includes \$12.37 million each year for the Minnesota Investment Fund, and \$8 million each year in funding for 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 Senate's inclusion of an increase of \$2 million per year to the base funding for the Redevelopment Grant and Demolition Loan Program for fiscal years 2024 and 2025. This program provides essential funding to metropolitan area projects for redeveloping properties to create community vibrancy and revitalization.

These programs support cities throughout the metropolitan region 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'.

Ania McDonnell  
Government Relations Specialist