



April 4, 2023

Dear Chair Gomez and Members, House Taxes Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HF 2335 - Howard, the omnibus housing bill.

Metro Cities strongly supports state resources for vital housing resources included in the bill, including the Challenge Program, housing infrastructure bonds, local housing trust funds, down payment assistance, and rental assistance, among other provisions.

Metro Cities is opposed to language in the bill that would establish a metropolitan region sales and use tax for housing aid and assistance programs.

Metro Cities opposes financing of programs that have statewide value and significance and traditionally funded with state revenues, such as housing, with local revenue sources. Metro Cities further opposes substituting traditionally state funded programs such as housing with funding mechanisms that would disparately affect taxpayers in the metropolitan region.

Programs and resources to address housing needs serve state goals and objectives and as such should be financed with traditional state revenue sources. Metro Cities has long supported adequate state revenues for state programs that are effective in providing support for housing but that are oversubscribed.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Patricia Nauman'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a light blue rectangular stamp.

Patricia Nauman
Executive Director
Metro Cities