



March 5, 2025

Re: Modifications and funding for the high-rise sprinkler grant program (HF 1334)

Chair Igo and members of the House Housing Finance and Policy Committee:

The League of Minnesota Cities appreciates the opportunity to voice our support for HF 1334 (Noor), which makes important modifications to the existing high-rise sprinkler grant program to improve the effectiveness of the program and extend the programs reach to include more buildings in need of retrofitting. HF 1334 also appropriates an additional \$10 million in general fund resources for this crucial program.

Through surveying of our member cities, the League of Minnesota Cities has determined that more than a dozen cities both within the metropolitan area and in greater Minnesota have both public and privately owned high-rise multifamily buildings that are not equipped with fire suppression sprinkler systems. Retrofitting high-rise buildings, many of which provide housing for low-income residents, with sprinkler systems is costly for both housing authorities that operate publicly owned housing and private property owners.

Since the program's establishment in 2023, limited resources have been made available to qualifying property owners to help support retrofitting buildings to include life safety fire suppression sprinkler systems. With the additional infusion of resources and modifications to the program, more properties in need of sprinkler systems will be eligible and the state can be one step closer of ensuring all high-rise buildings are sprinkled.

We thank Representative Noor for his support of this program since its inception and willingness to make adjustments to the program to improve its effectiveness in addressing the unique needs of these unsprinkled high-rise buildings.

Thank you for your consideration and we encourage members to support HF 1334.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel Lightfoot". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daniel Lightfoot
Senior Intergovernmental Relations Representative
League of Minnesota Cities