



March 8, 2022

Dear Chair Draheim and Members, Senate Housing Finance and Policy Committee,

Metro Cities appreciates the opportunity to comment in support of SF 3677 – Draheim that directs public dollars to address housing needs in the metropolitan region. As the association representing the shared interests of cities across the seven-county metropolitan region, Metro Cities appreciates the committee’s review of the state’s significant and diverse housing needs and consideration to fund homeownership and other housing programs this session.

Homeownership disparities are significant in the metropolitan region. The targeted funds in this bill will help reduce barriers to homeownership for eligible Minnesotans. Renters who can afford a monthly mortgage but are restricted from buying a home due to one-time upfront costs including closing costs and a down payment, would be assisted by this legislation.

Metro Cities supports substantial state investments to address housing needs. State and federal government partners play important roles in appropriating funding to assist in the construction of new homes as well as rehabilitate and preserve existing homes.

Targeted solutions, including those in SF 3677, are impactful and income and eligibility requirements ensure that solutions are targeted to lower income Minnesotans. We urge the committee to support public investments to help the metropolitan region meet its current and future housing needs.

Respectfully,

Charlie Vander Aarde  
Government Relations Specialist  
Metro Cities