



March 10, 2022

Re: Concerns with SF 3414 – Repealing the exception allowing local governments to control rents if approved by the voters

Dear Chair Draheim and members of the Senate Housing Finance and Policy Committee:

The League of Minnesota Cities appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on our opposition to SF 3414. We strongly believe the flexibility for cities to respond to local circumstances is a fundamental element of local control. Because city government most directly impacts the lives of people, the ability for cities to submit ordinances, charter amendments, or laws to the voters via ballot measure is essential.

Currently, statute expressly prohibits a statutory or home rule charter city from controlling rents via ordinance, charter amendment, or law on private residential property except for when approved by residents in a general election. By removing the ability for cities to submit a ballot question, SF 3414 erodes local control by eliminating a basic city function designed to ensure representative government and the ability to shape public policy based on resident input.

We respectfully oppose SF 3414 and encourage members to uphold local control.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Daniel Lightfoot'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent 'D' and 'L'.

Daniel Lightfoot
Intergovernmental Relations
Representative
League of Minnesota Cities