



March 14, 2022

Chair Draheim and Members, Senate Housing Finance and Policy Committee

Metro Cities appreciates the opportunity to comment on SF 3414 - Draheim, that would prospectively and retroactively eliminate the public process for a city to enact a ballot measure to control rents on private residential property.

Current statute permits a statutory or home rule charter city to control rents if approved by the voters. This public process would be preempted by the repealer in this bill.

Metro Cities supports local decision-making authority. These authorities have accountability with residents, through the voting process. As it pertains to this proposal, the current rent control statute includes an additional step, requiring a local election to allow a rent control policy in a city before an ordinance could be adopted.

Cities respond to local concerns over a range of issues with its authorities in statute. We respectfully oppose this bill based on its preemption of cities to respond to resident concerns and ask the committee to support local decision-making authority.

Respectfully,

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