



March 21, 2023

Dear Chair Frentz and Members of the Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Committee:

Metro Cities, representing the shared interests of cities across the metropolitan area, appreciates the opportunity to comment on SF 2973 (Xiong). Metro Cities supports this bill.

Urban forests are an essential local infrastructure component. Metro Cities supports funding for a state matching grant program to assist cities with building and increasing capacity for urban forest management, meeting the costs of preparing for, and responding to, catastrophic urban forest problems and preventing further loss and increasing canopy coverage. Specifically, direct grants to cities are desperately needed for the identification, removal, replacement, and treatment of trees related to management of emerald ash borer (EAB).

Metro Cities appreciates and supports the appropriation included in the bill for grants to local governments responding or preparing to respond to emerald ash borer infestations.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael Lund'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mike Lund
Government Relations Specialist
Metro Cities