



March 29, 2023

Dear Chair Hawj and Members of the Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee:

Metro Cities, representing the shared interests of cities across the metropolitan area, appreciates the opportunity to comment on SF 2438 (Hawj), as amended by the A3 Amendment. Metro Cities supports several key provisions.

**Urban Forest Management** – Urban forests are an essential local infrastructure component. Dutch elm disease, oak wilt disease, drought, storms, and emerald ash borer threaten public investments in trees and controlling these issues can be greatly consequential for city budgets. Metro Cities supports the \$8.9 million in each year for the Minnesota ReLeaf program found in Article 1, Section 3, Subd. 4. This funding will help with inventory, planning, planting, maintenance, and improvement of trees in cities throughout the state.

**Climate-Resilient Infrastructure** – Metro Cities supports the \$86.3 million each year for grants to local governments to support local planning and implementation of water infrastructure projects that allow for adaptation as the climate changes.

**Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)** – Metro Cities supports funding to address PFAS/PFOS such as the \$25 million for grants to support planning, designing, and preparing for solutions for public water treatment systems contaminated with PFAS, and \$4 million for PFAS reduction grants.

**Lawns to Legumes** – Metro Cities supports the \$2 million in FY 2024 and \$2 million in FY 2025 for the Lawns to Legumes program found in Article 1, Section 4. Metro Cities supports state funding for programs that create pollinator habitat on both public and private lands.

**Regional Parks** – Metro Cities supports state funding for regional parks and trails that is fair, creates a balance of investment across the state, and meets the needs of the region. Metro Cities supports the included funding in Article 1, Section 5 for parks operations and maintenance, modernization, and the mitigation of climate risks.

**Metropolitan Landfill Contingency Action Trust (MLCAT) Repayment** – Metro Cities supports the \$12 million transfer from the general fund to the metropolitan area landfill contingency action trust (MLCAT) account found in Article 1, Section 2. Making this account whole will help ensure its ability to address the environmental needs of MLCAT-eligible landfills in the metropolitan region.

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".

Mike Lund  
Government Relations Specialist  
Metro Cities