



April 4, 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 1682 (Hawj), as amended by the A3 Amendment. Metro Cities supports several key provisions.

Clean Water Fund: Article 2 – Metro Cities supports the \$8.5 million in each year for the Board of Water and Soil Resources to make grants to local governments to protect, restore, and enhance surface water, ground water, and drinking water. Metro Cities also supports the \$1.125 million each year directed to the Metropolitan Council to implement projects that address emerging threats to the drinking water supply especially those that leverage interjurisdictional coordination and support local implementation of water supply reliability projects. Finally, Metro Cities supports the \$1.5 million for water demand reduction grants to assist municipalities in the metropolitan area with implementing water demand reduction measures to ensure the reliability and projection of drinking water.

Parks and Trails Fund: Article 3 – In the seven-county metropolitan area, regional parks essentially serve as state parks, and the state should continue to provide capital funding for the acquisition, development, and improvement of these parks in a manner that is equitable with funding for state 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 appreciates and supports the \$28.5 million in FY 2024 and \$25.5 million in FY 2025 for the metropolitan regional parks system.

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