



April 11, 2023

Dear Chair Marty and Members, Senate Finance Committee:

Metro Cities, representing the shared interests of cities across the metropolitan area at the Legislature and Executive Branch, appreciates the opportunity to comment on provisions in SF 2566 – Port, the omnibus housing bill. The bill contains several essential resources that will help metropolitan cities address significant local housing needs.

Metro Cities supports funding included in SF 2566 for various state housing programs. These include funding for the Challenge Program, housing infrastructure bonds, local housing trust funds, first generation homebuyer down payment assistance, rental assistance, and homebuyer education, counseling, and training programs.

Metro Cities' policies support funding to assist with development, preservation, and maintenance of existing housing stock affordable to residents in the low-to-moderate income range. Funding for the Community Stabilization program in the bill will support local efforts to preserve this essential housing stock.

Metro Cities' policies also support state funding for rental assistance, an important component of housing affordability. The proposed program will support local governments in addressing affordable and stable rental housing and help address racial disparities in assisting cost-burdened households.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ania McDonnell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ania McDonnell
Government Relations Specialist