



April 24, 2023

Dear Chair Marty and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Metro Cities, representing the collective interests of cities in the metropolitan area, appreciates the opportunity to comment on SF 73 (Port) as it is considered by the Senate Finance Committee.

SF 73 requires local governments to register cannabis businesses if they have been licensed by the state and have met certain other requirements. The bill also requires that local governments conduct compliance checks for every cannabis and hemp business with retail registrations. This responsibility puts increased demands on cost-burdened local budgets. Costs will be especially burdensome for small cities and cities bordering states where adult-use cannabis is illegal.

For this reason, Metro Cities supports language in SF 73 that authorizes local governments to limit the number of cannabis retailers in their jurisdiction based on certain population thresholds. Metro Cities further supports the requirement that cannabis license applicants receive a local land use compatibility statement approval from the appropriate local unit of government. Metro Cities continues to support additional language authorizing cities to opt-out of retail cannabis sales within their jurisdiction.

Metro Cities appreciates the revenue sharing provisions amended into SF 73 establishing the local government cannabis aid account with a direct allocation to cities based on the number of cannabis businesses located in each city. Even if this legislation is successful in eliminating the illicit market, local resources will be required to respond to new challenges such as increased rates of impaired driving, unlicensed or out of compliance retailers, and nuisance complaints from residents.

The inclusion of a local government cannabis aid account acknowledges the additional financial and staffing pressures adult-use cannabis legalization will put on cities, as is the case when local governments are responsible for implementing and enforcing state laws.

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, with the first name "Michael" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Lund".

Mike Lund  
Government Relations Specialist  
Metro Cities