



January 23, 2023

Senator Latz, Chair, Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee
3105 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Latz and Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee:

Metro Cities, representing the collective interests of cities in the metropolitan region, appreciates the opportunity to comment on SF 73-Port as it is considered in the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Finance Committee on Wednesday.

Metro Cities has specific concerns with the bill as it relates to the role and responsibility of local governments to enforce state laws and provide public safety for a local community.

Article 1, Section 13 of the bill would strip the ability of cities to provide local oversight and regulation on the sale of cannabis. Metro Cities supports cities maintaining the authority to license adult-use cannabis retailers, including the authority of cities to opt out of authorizing the sale of products in their local jurisdiction. Local licensing and regulation are vital roles that local governments play generally in enforcing state laws and providing for local public safety.

Metro Cities appreciates the inclusion of municipal representatives on the Cannabis Advisory Council and the requirement for the Office of Cannabis Management to conduct an annual report that includes information on recommended funding levels for peace officer training. State appropriations in SF 73 must recognize the additional financial and local staffing pressures adult-use cannabis legalization will put on cities and local law enforcement as is the case when local governments are required to implement and enforce state laws.

Metro Cities stands ready to work with the bill's author, members of this committee, and other stakeholders to ensure any regulatory framework developed for adult-use cannabis involves input by city officials and addresses the needs of local jurisdictions.

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 written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mike Lund
Government Relations Specialist
Metro Cities