



March 23, 2023

Dear Chair McEwen and Members of the Senate Labor Committee,

Metro Cities, representing the shared interests of cities across the seven-county metropolitan area, appreciates the opportunity to comment on SF 2471 – Mohamed, that permits construction of permanent micro-units on sacred settlements.

City officials in the metropolitan area recognize the need to increase housing for homeless populations and the dire need for additional resources for housing in our communities. City officials also have primary responsibility for ensuring the health, safety and welfare of the community. Land use policies, building codes, waste disposal requirements, and policies addressing parking needs, setbacks and other concerns exist to ensure the compatibility of uses, sound construction of units and adequate local infrastructure and service capacities. At the core, standards are intended to provide safe housing for all residents. Thus, codes and standards apply to all permanent housing construction, regardless of the size or type of unit.

Although there have been significant improvements to the bill, city officials would like to see a local opt out provision in the bill. Additionally, Metro Cities has identified remaining concerns with the bill, including cities maintaining responsibility for adequate public service and infrastructure to serve the units, as well as this new structure type could trigger the need for local comprehensive plan amendments due to effects on the adequacy of regional infrastructure.

Our organization appreciates the opportunity to raise our concerns regarding the bill. Primarily, these concerns stem from the exemption of these units from state and local requirements whose purpose is to ensure public health and safety. We are happy to continue to discuss improvements to the bill as it progresses.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Respectfully,

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

Ania McDonnell
Government Relations Specialist
Metro Cities