



Dear Chair Rest and Members, Senate Taxes Committee:

Metro Cities, representing cities in the metropolitan region, appreciates the opportunity to comment on the delete everything (DE) amendment to SF 1811, the omnibus tax bill.

While there are provisions in the bill Metro Cities supports, these comments address items in the bill for which the association has concerns, per the request of Chair Rest for public testimony. These are as follows:

Metro Cities appreciates the increase to the appropriation for local government aid (LGA), and would ask the committee to consider further increasing the LGA appropriation. Metro Cities recognizes the increasing cost pressures, staff recruitment and other challenges for metropolitan cities in the provision of local services, and supports an increase of \$100 million for this program.

Metro Cities supports addressing the process for the construction sales tax exemption so that all cities are able to utilize this exemption that they are entitled to under current law.

Metro Cities is concerned with the expansion to the 4d class rate included in the bill, due to the potential for property tax shifts at the local level, particularly for taxpayers of more modest incomes.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Metro Cities looks forward to working with the committee on these and other important issues as the bill continues to be considered.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patricia Nauman".

Patricia Nauman
Executive Director
Metro Cities