



March 18, 2024

Dear Chair Dziedzic and Members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee:

Metro Cities, representing the collective interests of cities in the metropolitan area, appreciates the opportunity to comment on SF 4461 (Mann), which is being heard in the State and Local Government Committee on Tuesday.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, cities showed their ability to pivot to remote work while maintaining, and even increasing, transparency and accessibility. Metro Cities supports amending the Open Meeting Law to allow city councilmembers and city board and/or commission members to participate remotely. Metro Cities policy specifically calls for the ability of members to participate remotely in up to fifty percent of scheduled meetings each year without making their location open and accessible to the public as otherwise required under Minnesota Statutes § 13D.02, subd. 1. Metro Cities also supports amending the law to remove the three-times-per-year cap for medical and military exceptions.

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 'Mike Lund'.

Mike Lund
Government Relations Specialist
Metro Cities