



March 27, 2025

Dear Chair Hawj and Members of the Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee:

Metro Cities, representing the shared interests of cities across the metropolitan area, appreciates the opportunity to comment on SF 2865 (Hawj), as amended by the A-1 amendment.

Clean Water Fund: Article 2 – Metro Cities supports the \$1.375 million in each year of the 2026-2027 biennium for the Metropolitan Council to support communities implementing projects that address emerging drinking water supply threats and overall water sustainability. Metro Cities further supports the funding for grants to assist municipalities in the metropolitan area with implementing water demand reduction measures to ensure the reliability and protection of drinking water supplies.

Parks and Trails Fund: Article 3 – In the seven-county metropolitan area, regional parks essentially serve as state parks, and the state should continue to provide capital funding for the acquisition, development, and improvement of these parks in a manner that is equitable with funding for state parks. Metro Cities supports state funding for regional parks and trails that is fair, creates a balance of investment across the state, and meets the needs of the region. Metro Cities appreciates and supports the \$24.29 million in FY 2026 and \$27.2 million in FY 2027 for the regional parks system.

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'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Mike' and last name 'Lund' clearly visible.

Mike Lund
Government Relations Specialist
Metro Cities