



March 5, 2025

Dear Chair Dibble and Members of the Transportation Committee:

Metro Cities, representing the collective interests of cities in the metropolitan area, appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on SF 176 (Jasinski), which is being heard in the Transportation Committee on Wednesday. Metro Cities supports this bill.

Metro Cities supports the appropriations in SF 176 for the State Patrol to purchase a new helicopter and single-engine airplane, and to pay for associated staff and equipment costs. The use of air support has proven to be highly effective in the metropolitan region in addressing public safety issues like street racing and carjackings.

When law enforcement is forced to pursue suspects on the road it puts officers, other drivers and pedestrians, and suspects at increased risk of bodily harm. The State Patrol's air support can be deployed to follow suspects from a safe distance until the fleeing individual has stopped and can be apprehended safely. The appropriations in SF 176 will increase the State Patrol's capacity to assist local law enforcement in the metropolitan region.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Lund'.

Mike Lund
Government Relations Specialist
Metro Cities