



February 11, 2025

Chair Port and Members of the Senate Housing and Homelessness Prevention Committee,

Metro Cities, representing the shared interests of cities across the metropolitan region at the Legislature and Executive Branch, appreciates the opportunity to support SF 982– Boldon. This bill would appropriate additional resources to Minnesota Housing’s Economic Development and Housing Challenge Program in the amounts of \$22.9 million in FY2026 and \$12.9 million in FY2027.

Cities in the metropolitan area find that this program allows them to utilize these funds for a wide variety of uses with an economic development focus. This program supports economic development and redevelopment and job creation as well as preservation, by meeting local housing needs through the construction, acquisition, rehabilitation, demolition of existing structures, financing, interest rate reductions, refinancing, and gap financing of housing.

State funding is paramount to advancing affordable housing. Metro Cities appreciates the resources provided in this bill for the Housing Challenge program.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ania McDonnell'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Ania' and last name 'McDonnell' clearly visible.

Ania McDonnell
Government Relations Specialist