



March 4, 2025

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

Metro Cities, representing the shared interests of cities across the metropolitan area at the Legislature and Executive Branch, appreciates the opportunity to support SF 1610 – Oumou Verbeten and SF 1533 - Mohamed.

SF 1610 would provide for additional funding for the Community-Based First-Generation Homebuyers Assistance Program and modifies the program language. This program is essential in supporting first-time homebuyers or those who owned a home but lost it due to foreclosure, and will support efforts to reduce racial disparities in homeownership. Providing additional funding to these programs will support increasing the ability to access homeownership across our communities in the metropolitan area.

Metro Cities supports SF 1533, as it would provide increased funding to the Homeownership Education, Counseling and Training Program (HECAT). Metro Cities has long supported this program because it helps avoid foreclosures, improves homeownership rates, and supports the financial wellness of future homeowners so they are aware of their rights, options, and costs associated with owning a home.

The resources in these bills will support homeownership in our state and are essential to addressing homeownership disparities.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ania McDonnell'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ania McDonnell
Government Relations Specialist