



April 4, 2024

Chair Klevorn and Members of the House State and Local Government Finance and Policy Committee:

Metro Cities, representing the shared interests of metropolitan cities, appreciates the opportunity to comment on and support HF 4182 – Freiberg. This bill includes language allowing local governments to require franchise fees from a provider furnishing broadband and to receive compensation for the use of the public right-of-way.

Cities play a vital role in achieving significantly higher broadband speeds. Local units of government contribute to increasing broadband capacity and ensuring internet connectivity, reliability, and availability.

Metro Cities supports the ability of local officials to manage and protect public rights-of-way and to collect compensation for the use of public assets. Metro Cities policies also support state policies and programs that substantially increase speed and capacity of broadband services statewide, including facilitating solutions at the local level. Incentives that support private sector service providers to respond to local or regional needs, and to collaborate with cities to deploy broadband infrastructure will help ensure immediate and future local needs can be appropriately addressed.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ania McDonnell'.

Ania McDonnell  
Government Relations Specialist