



February 17, 2025

**Re: Support for HF 335 – Greater Minnesota Business Development Infrastructure Grant Program Funding**

Chair Baker and members of the House Workforce, Labor and Economic Development Finance and Policy Committee:

On behalf of our 841 member cities across the state, the League of Minnesota Cities appreciates the opportunity to express our strong support for HF 335 (Johnson P.), which includes \$5 million over the next biennium in funding for the Department of Employment and Economic Development’s Greater Minnesota Business Development Infrastructure (BDPI).

The BDPI program provides 50% matching grants to greater Minnesota cities outside the seven-county metropolitan area and are critical for local economic development priorities that have helped fund both needed publicly owed infrastructure and direct support to businesses that wish to locate or expand in communities across greater Minnesota.

Since 2010, the BDPI program has awarded more than \$75 million in local matching funds to assist community businesses to add and retain thousands of jobs, build community tax base and help keep greater Minnesota a great place for business. Projects that have been awarded included critical infrastructure projects that support greater Minnesota communities including wastewater collection and treatment, drinking water, stormwater, utility extensions, and streets. All infrastructure that supports a strong local economy and helps businesses in our communities thrive.

We are grateful to Rep. Pete Johnson for authoring the bill and Rep. Roger Skraba who has signed on as a co-author. Please continue to support this valuable grant program both through a general fund appropriation and through the state’s bonding priorities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Pierre Willette  
Senior Intergovernmental Relations Representative  
League of Minnesota Cities