

Dear Members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

I am writing to express my opposition to SB2208. This Bill will have negative consequences for our communities. It imposes stringent reporting requirements on cities that receive grants from the municipal infrastructure fund. While accountability is important, the deadlines and format requirements may be overly burdensome for smaller cities with limited administrative resources. This could result in cities being unfairly penalized and losing access to much-needed funding for essential infrastructure projects. It includes punitive measures for cities that fail to comply with the reporting requirements or use the funds inconsistently with the bill's provisions. These measures, such as a two-year ineligibility period for future grants, are excessively harsh and could severely impact the ability of cities to maintain and improve their infrastructure. A more balanced approach that provides support and guidance to cities in meeting the requirements would be more effective.

SB2208 prohibits local governments from receiving grants if they adopt ordinances or policies that interfere with state-approved energy infrastructure projects. This is state government overreach and essentially punishing local government for trying to protect its citizens. It is crucial to respect the authority of local governments to address the unique needs and concerns of their communities.

In conclusion, SB2208 introduces measures that could hinder the ability of cities and counties to effectively manage and improve their infrastructure. I urge a DO NOT Pass on SB2208 and ask the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee to work towards a more supportive approach to local governments when working on energy and infrastructure projects.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Josey Milbradt