



City of Lakeville
Positioned to Thrive

January 2, 2024

To the Metropolitan Governance Task Force:

Thank you for the opportunity to address issues related to governance and scope of the Metropolitan Council. The current governance structure has led to concerns from both parties which is why this group of bipartisan leaders has gathered to help chart a new direction.

The crux of the matter is that all Metropolitan Council members, crucial in regional planning, are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor. While this system may have worked in some respects, it has inadvertently led to a lack of diversity and local representation, often tied to the party affiliation of the sitting Governor.

To address this, we support a shift in the selection process of the Metropolitan Council to increase the role and representation of local units of government. The City of Lakeville has adopted a position that local governments be afforded an opportunity to provide input in the selection process of the members who represent us. Doing this would help ensure that the Metropolitan Council include the voices of our local governments, both cities and counties. Under this process, cities would have the opportunity to provide the input of locally elected officials who understand their communities' unique challenges and opportunities. This approach fosters a sense of local ownership and accountability and can bridge the gap between regional planning and the concerns of residents.

Changes made to the Metropolitan Council's governance model should be focused on enhancing its usefulness to local governments in serving the residents of our communities and the entire region and not simply creating another competing elected layer of government.

We recognize that change can be met with skepticism and assure you that this proposal is not about undermining the authority of the Governor but about enhancing the democratic processes. Let us work together to create an efficient regional planning body that reflects our communities' rich diversity, ensuring that all residents voices are heard and respected in shaping the future of our metropolitan area.

Sincerely,

Luke Hellier
Mayor

cc: Lakeville City Council
Lakeville Legislative Delegation