

To Representative Igo, Senator Port and Housing conference committee 2025

From Section 8 voucherholder

Linda Soderstrom (Winona)

Re Gratitude for Your Work toward the Common Good

May 8, 2025

I am very grateful for all your work and awareness, your bipartisanship and search for best practices to create fair housing for every Minnesotan. I lived at Richfield's Crossroads at Penn when in 2015 two and one half thousand people lost their homes due to predatory gentrification. 2,350+ souls were out in one year. Rents rose from \$750 to \$1,100.

We need state universal rental subsidy via vouchers based on income for those in greatest need in Minnesota. Minnesota is the North Star for fair housing solutions in our nation. Many who do study what goes on here are grateful for our example, our dedication, fairness and justice seeking. I am proud of our leadership as it continues to emerge. Minnesotans truly do live our values.

I believe we can create the FAIR HOUSING supply that was predicted to be needed in deep affordability of 300,000 new units between 2020 and 2030. We also can take the good words of commissioner in Olmsted County Sheila Kiskaden, who often reminds us "The most affordable housing has already been built". It's already standing and simply needs to be saved, refurbished and uplifted. Crossroads was a NOAH property and we need to save all NOAH properties already standing and bring them up to code and provide dignity and respect for those tenants who need stability and security, accessibility and affordability in their homes. This will stabilize our seniors and our soldiers and our school-age children and everyone else in between.

Again with deepest gratitude,

Linda Lee Soderstrom

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