

May 11, 2020

Dear Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives

The Homes for All coalition is the largest housing advocacy coalition in Minnesota and has endorsing membership representation in every county. Our coalition is comprised of organizations that have a vested interest in affordable housing and is comprised of over 250 organizations representing direct service providers, faith communities, local municipalities, non-profits and private businesses. The coalition has only continued to grow in recent years, because Minnesota is in an affordable housing crisis and every part of the continuum is being impacted.

At the start of the 2020 legislative session, Homes for All was heavily focused on securing a significant investment of Housing Infrastructure Bonds and General Obligation bonds in the bonding bill. But, like all of you, the coalition pivoted once the COVID-19 crisis hit and we led advocacy efforts around emergency response funding for those experiencing homelessness and housing assistance. As we enter the final days of the legislative session we encourage the legislature to come to an agreement and pass a bonding bill. We are thankful for the meaningful investment of \$262 million in the House bonding bill towards affordable housing.

Investing in Housing Infrastructure Bonds and GO bonds for Public Housing in the bonding bill will create good jobs, support communities around the state and help stabilize families that are struggling to make ends meet.

- **Statewide impact** - Since 2012, Housing Infrastructure Bonds and GO Bonds for Public Housing have directly impacted around 100 communities in both Greater Minnesota and in the Metro Area. Housing resources in the bonding bill are the number one source of housing development dollars from the state.
- **Leveraged Resources** – Projects that receive bonding support significantly leverage additional local, state, federal, philanthropic and private resources. For example, for every \$1 in state bonds for affordable housing we can leverage \$3 in private resources and preserve \$4 in federal resources.
- **Shovel Ready Projects** –Minnesota Housing has already received 62 applications in its open RFP (closes mid-July) for projects statewide with a total of \$874 million in development costs. On average, in recent years only 1 in every 3 projects that applies to Minnesota Housing for funding receives it, demonstrating consistent demand.
- **Equity Impact**– Over a half a million Minnesota households pay more than they can afford for housing and this is especially true for households of color. 40% of households of color are housing cost burdened compared to only 23% of white households.

Homes for All is grateful for your thoughtful consideration and hopes that affordable housing will continue to be a top priority for the House of Representatives. Bonds for housing would significantly help provide safe, affordable and accessible housing for thousands of Minnesotans. Please reach out to the policy co-chairs, Libby Murphy (612-716-9703) or Kari Johnson (612-387-6398) should you need any further information regarding the specifics of the Homes for All bonding request.

Sincerely,

Allison Streich & Pastor Sue Koesterman
Homes for All Co-Chairs