



Building homes, community, and hope.

16 May 2025

To: Members of the Housing Conference Committee

Re: Workforce & Affordable Homeownership Development

Dear Chair Port, Chair Igo, and Members of the Housing Conference Committee

On behalf of Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota (Habitat Minnesota), thank you for your leadership and dedication throughout this legislative session. As the statewide support organization serving 24 local Habitat affiliates, we are committed to advancing equitable, long-term, affordable homeownership and removing barriers that stand in the way of that goal.

With the recent global target, we urge you to prioritize investments in Minnesota's proven housing development pipelines. As you work to craft a final package that addresses needs across the housing continuum, we want to highlight the **Workforce & Affordable Homeownership Development Program (HF2914/SF1711)** as a critical opportunity to expand access to homeownership.

Affordable starter homes are foundational to strong communities, workforce stability, and long-term economic health. Yet Minnesota continues to face a significant shortage of homeownership opportunities, especially for low- to moderate-income households. This shortage is the result of years of underproduction and escalating construction costs. The Workforce & Affordable Homeownership Development Program is the only state program dedicated specifically to producing new affordable homeownership units, making it a vital tool in addressing this urgent need.

Without sustained investment, the program is at risk. Its current base funding of just \$250,000 is insufficient and would severely limit the development of new affordable homes. We are grateful for the \$3M included in the House Housing Omnibus bill and know that increased and ongoing investment is essential to ensure that more Minnesotans can access stable, affordable homeownership.

Along with HIB as a key pipeline, Habitat Minnesota also supports one-time investments in the Greater Minnesota Housing Infrastructure Grant Program, First Generation Downpayment Assistance, and the Challenge Program. These tools collectively help meet a broad range of housing needs and further strengthen our communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our perspective. We appreciate your partnership and look forward to continued collaboration on solutions that produce and preserve affordable homes across Minnesota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cristen Incitti". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional but personal style.

Cristen Incitti, President & CEO
Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota
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