

House Housing Finance and Policy Committee
473 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155



March 8, 2023

Dear Chair Howard and Members of the Committee,

The Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers (MCCD) is an association of nonprofit community development organizations and Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) committed to expanding the wealth and resources of communities through housing opportunities and economic development initiatives. MCCD's mission to build strong and stable communities can only be achieved by addressing the inequities that have shaped housing policies at every level of government. These policies and practices have prevented Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and other communities from achieving housing stability, accessing capital, and building wealth.

MCCD is writing in support of H.F. 1472 to invest in homeownership across Minnesota. We know that owning a home provides families with stability, safety, and the opportunity to build generational wealth. By passing H.F. 1472, we can ensure that Minnesotans have access to the tools that they need to successfully become a homeowner. Our state is facing a severe shortage of affordable housing, but we can continue to make progress by investing in the development and preservation of affordable homes. The Workforce Homeownership Program is uniquely suited to address our state's lack of housing for our growing workforce.

Minnesota is home to one of the worst racial homeownership gaps in the country. 77% of white households own their home, compared to just 30% of Black households. By investing in homeownership, we can begin to address this unacceptable disparity and ensure that BIPOC and low-wealth families have the opportunity to pursue homeownership.

With your support of H.F. 1472, we can ensure consistent funding for affordable and accessible homeownership opportunities across Minnesota.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working with you this session to address Minnesota's affordable housing crisis. Please reach out to Kelly Law (klaw@mccdmn.org) should you have any questions or need further information.

Sincerely,

Elena Gaarder

Chief Executive Officer
Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers