

March 17, 2026

Co-Chair Michael Howard

Minnesota House Housing Finance and Policy
Committee

Chair Lindsey Port

Minnesota Senate Housing and Homelessness
Prevention Committee

Co-Chair Spencer Igo

Minnesota House Housing Finance and Policy
Committee

Re: Tenant Credit Reporting (HF2123/Hussein, SF2807/Mohamed)

Co-Chair Howard, Co-Chair Igo, and Chair Port:

The Minnesota Legislature created the Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage (CMAH) to advise government on the needs of our constituents and support their participation in the resources of the state and economy. Our constituency comprises of Minnesotans who self-identify as African American or African Immigrant, Black American or Black Immigrant.

We write to express support for the tenant credit reporting proposal (HF2123/SF2807).

Inadequate access to finance capital plays a major role in income and wealth disparities and other structural economic disadvantages. Financial hardships impact African Heritage families at higher rates than other populations. Black households are more likely to lack checking or savings accounts. Among renters with the same income levels, Black renters have significantly lower credit scores.

HF2123/SF2807 provides one set of policy solutions for addressing these economic disadvantages. The legislation allows tenants to have their on-time rent payments reported to credit bureaus for inclusion in the calculation of a consumer credit score. Importantly, a renter cannot be forced to participate in rental reporting nor charged for participation. And renters can opt out of the program at any time.

This proposal draws on broader community and policy stakeholder frameworks for pathways to credit equity. In addition to rent and utility payment reporting, the African American Leadership Forum recommends a user-friendly statewide reporting tool, tax incentives for participation, and educational awareness and engagement as part of the strategy.

We thank Representative Hussein and Senator Mohamed for bringing this legislation forward. We urge members of the House and Senate Housing Committees to pass HF2123/SF2807.

Sincerely,

Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage (CMAH)

The Minnesota Legislature empowered the Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage to ensure that people of African Heritage fully and effectively participate in and equitably benefit from the political, social, and economic resources, policies, and procedures of the State of Minnesota. Generally, the Council is charged with the responsibility of:

- *Advising the Governor and the Legislature on issues confronting People of African Heritage;*
- *Advising the Governor and the Legislature on statutes, rules, and revisions to programs to ensure that Black people have access to benefits and services provided to people in Minnesota;*
- *Serving as a liaison to the federal government, local government units and private organizations on matters relating to People of African Heritage in Minnesota;*
- *Implementing programs designed to solve problems of People of African Heritage when authorized by statute, rule, or order; and*
- *Publicizing the accomplishments of People of African Heritage and their contributions to the state.*



March 17, 2026

Dear Co-Chair Howard and Co-Chair Igo,

We are writing today in strong support of ensuring that more renters have the option to have their timely rent payments reported to credit bureaus to build their credit score (HF2123). This policy supports readiness for homeownership, a cornerstone of building generational wealth.

The GroundBreak Coalition includes over 40 philanthropic, private, and civic organizations that are pooling expertise and capital to create new pathways for wealth building in Minnesota through home, business, and property ownership.

Over the next decade, GroundBreak is mobilizing capital to open the door for 11,000 new homeowners, providing up to \$50,000 per household in down payment and post-purchase assistance, paired with loans from a network of lending partners. By 2027, GroundBreak is positioned to deliver 850 new homeowners.

Together, we are working to rewrite the rules, and empower ownership and generational wealth for those who our financial systems have not served. In Minnesota, nearly 2/3 of Black households are renters, while only 1/3 own their homes. This disparity contributes to one of the largest racial homeownership gaps in the nation.

For many renters, the single largest monthly payment they make is rent, yet those on-time payments often do not count toward building one's credit profile or history. Today, many Minnesota renters are mortgage-ready, but our credit system does not consider or recognize the behaviors that demonstrate their readiness.

Counting timely rental payments toward credit histories is a commonsense reform. It will strengthen our economy by enabling our systems to recognize and serve more Minnesotans who are already prepared for homeownership.

A home is more than a place to live - it is an investment in stability, community, and wealth for the next generation. We urge you to support the credit reporting bill (HF2123).

Sincerely,

Drinal Foster
Chief Impact Officer
GroundBreak Coalition



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Tuesday, March 17th, 2026

Dear Housing Finance and Policy Committee,

The Northside Residents Redevelopment Council (NRRC) is writing to support the **Credit Reporting Bill, HF 2123**. Here in the NRRC Zone, (Willard-Hay and Near North), we are acutely aware of the disproportionate wealth gap and barriers that exist for our residents to be able to build wealth through home ownership.

Through our CDFI, NRRC Financial, and our housing programs, we are actively working to support homeownership in North Minneapolis. We have a high number of renters both in multi-family units and single-family homes. This policy would greatly support our work in transitioning them to homeowners in our community.

We are incredibly grateful to Representative Hussein Samakab, as well as Senator Zaynab Mohamed, for bringing this bill forward to remove systemic barriers and build generational wealth for Black families in Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Northside Residents Redevelopment Council Board