



March 14, 2022

**\*Sent via Email**

The Honorable Representative Marquart, Chair  
Taxes Committee  
597 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**RE: Support for HF 3982 – local affordable housing aid program**

Dear Chair Marquart and Members of the Committee:

Olmsted County respectfully urges your support for [HF 3982](#) to establish a local affordable housing aid program for counties and cities. Thank you for hearing the bill and we also greatly appreciate the leadership of Representative Howard and the many coauthors for bringing this idea forward. Minnesota has a statewide shortage of affordable housing, which is the building block to an individual's and community's economic strength, health, and well-being.

Increasing the availability of affordable housing has been a high priority of Olmsted County for many years and we strongly support the approach of HF 3982 to provide local governments with direct, flexible funding to best address affordable housing needs in their communities. The county has invested in several community partnerships and collaborations throughout the years to make housing more equitable and affordable for our residents. Most recently, Olmsted County invested a significant portion of American Rescue Plan Act local recovery dollars to support affordable housing infrastructure and programs in the county.

Despite these efforts, a recent Maxfield Housing Study for Olmsted County indicated need for more than 3,100 additional affordable housing units. Additionally, as of March 1, 2022, there were only nine homes on the market in all of Olmsted County for under \$250,000. This is pushing homeownership out of reach for many families and the funding provided in HF 3982 will help the county make the dream of homeownership possible for more Olmsted County families.

Addressing the lack of affordable housing throughout Minnesota and in our local communities requires a multi-faceted approach. HF 3982 will serve as one of these facets to provide much needed and welcomed affordable housing investments in local communities. The direct funding will provide local governments with efficient and consistent resources to proactively plan for affordable housing projects.

Thank you for your consideration to support HF 3982 and investments in affordable housing needs in communities throughout the state. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Thein".

Mark Thein, Chair  
Olmsted County Board of Commissioners  
[thein.mark@co.olmsted.mn.us](mailto:thein.mark@co.olmsted.mn.us)