



Building homes, communitiy, and hope.

24 March 2025

To: Members of the Capital Investment Committee

Re: HF1709 Greater Minnesota Housing Infrastructure Grants

Dear Chair Lee and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota's (Habitat Minnesota) support of HF1709, the Greater MN Housing Infrastructure Grant program. Habitat Minnesota is a statewide support organization for the 24 local Habitat affiliates in Minnesota, 23 of which serve Greater MN.

Housing is an ongoing need and virtually every project needs public infrastructure to support it. Many rural communities do not have land upon which to build, and new land needs to be developed. The infrastructure necessary to support new developments is costly and is often a barrier to building workforce housing and homeownership opportunities. The costs associated with it get passed onto the homeowner and we're in the business of trying to create affordable homeownership.

These types of resources are in demand statewide. I know this committee has seen the needs across Minnesota and receives capital investment requests from jurisdictions across the state; this type of investment would help focus the resources needed to help develop affordable housing and homeownership across Greater Minnesota.

This program comes at an exciting time as Habitat for Humanity affiliates working in Red Wing and Saint Cloud have site control for larger land parcels with development plans to increase the scale of development, while other Habitat for Humanity affiliates in Fergus Falls, Mankato, and Moorhead are planning for larger scale development.

We're grateful for the funds that were invested in the program in 2023. We know that ongoing and increased investments in this program are needed to reach more cities and communities across the state. Thank you to Rep. Frederick for championing these investments in Greater MN and thank you to the committee for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cristen Incitti".

Cristen Incitti, President & CEO
Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota
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