

May 3, 2021

Dear Members of the Housing Finance and Policy Conference Committee,

We appreciate the commitment each of you have shown for manufactured home community preservation throughout this legislative session. As a result of your leadership, the legislature is poised to make historic investments in preserving and improving manufactured home communities (MHCs) this year. Minnesota needs every bit of that investment if we are going to turn the tide of community closures and keep these communities affordable in the long-term.

At Northcountry Cooperative Foundation (NCF), we've spent decades working to preserve manufactured home communities through cooperative ownership. While support for MHC preservation grows each year, so do the challenges. Minnesota loses about 100 units of manufactured housing per year due to closures and MHCs are threatened with losing their affordability due to increasing speculation by out-of-state investors.

With your help, we can increase the pace of preservation and keep these communities affordable to the 180,000 Minnesotans that call them home. We hope the Committee carries forward its commitment to manufactured housing in the final housing bill, including:

- Increasing appropriations to the Manufactured Housing Infrastructure Fund and the Workforce Homeownership Fund;
- Allowing manufactured homeowners who live in cooperative or nonprofit-owned communities to title their homes as real estate, allowing them to access more affordable home financing options;
- Expanding the Rehab Loan Program to include the replacement of manufactured homes as an eligible use;
- Utilizing 100% of the Agency's Pool 3 resources for homeownership activities with at least 17% for ownership production.

As the Committee works together to determine how Minnesota will invest in affordable homeownership, we continue to be available as a resource.

Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to affordable homeownership.



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