

House Housing Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota State Capitol
75 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard.
St Paul, MN 55155



Dear Chair Igo and Members of the Committee,

March 11, 2025

The Minnesota 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 harms and inequities that have shaped housing and economic development policies at every level of government. These policies have prevented Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) and other communities from achieving housing stability, accessing capital, and building generational wealth.

MCCD is writing in support of House File 1987, the Minnesota Starter Home Act, to increase Minnesota's supply of affordable housing options.

The Minnesota Starter Home Act would make it easier to build smaller homes and duplexes in new developments and re-developments across our state. Owning a home allows families to build wealth and achieve financial stability and security. This bill will help ensure that when prospective homebuyers are in the market to buy their first home, there are affordable options available to them. By supporting this bill and the broader Yes to Homes agenda, we can better ensure that Minnesotans have access to housing that is both affordable and that fits their unique needs.

As you have heard many times in this committee, Minnesota is experiencing a severe housing shortage. We need to build more than 100,000 units of housing to meet demand, and we are nowhere near meeting this goal. This shortage is contributing to increasing costs for renters and homeowners and it is making it more difficult for individuals and families to achieve long-term housing stability. While there isn't one single solution to solve our state's housing crisis, there is a relatively simple way to solve our housing shortage: build more housing. We can do this by supporting bills like HF 1987, and by saying Yes to Homes.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our request to support new housing development. Please reach out to Kelly Law, Senior Policy and Field Building Advisor at MCCD, 612-865-3170 or klaw@mccdmn.org, should you need any further information now or throughout the legislative session.

Sincerely,

Elena Gaarder

Elena Gaarder
Chief Executive Officer, MCCD