



Minnesota House Committee on Housing Finance and Policy
453 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

March 2, 2021

Chair Hausman and Members of the Committee,

Homeownership Minnesota (HOM) is a statewide coalition of 13 member organizations focused on elevating affordable homeownership for all Minnesotans. HOM views affordable homeownership as a solution to Minnesota's housing shortage and as a necessary step toward closing wealth disparities and addressing racial inequities. HOM advocates to increase public investment and advance policy and practice reforms towards the preparation of homeowners and the production and preservation of affordable homeownership opportunities.

We are writing in support of House File 1084, a bill to increase the maximum loan amount for the Rehabilitation Loan Program (RLP). The RLP is critical to preserving affordable homeownership for low-income homeowners. Due to the growing need for health and safety repairs in aging housing stock and the rising cost of labor and materials in the construction market, the maximum loan amount does not adequately address rehabilitation needs. By increasing the cap amount, the RLP will more effectively stabilize low-income families and preserve their greatest asset – their home.

We look forward to working with you to address the need for affordable homeownership preservation across the state.

Sincerely,

Cristen Incitti, President & CEO, Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota, HOM Co-Chair
Kathy Wetzel-Mastel, Executive Director, PRG, HOM Co-Chair

Homeownership Minnesota Member Organizations:

City of Lakes Community Land Trust
Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Housing Services
Greater Metropolitan Housing Corporation
Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota
Minnesota Community Land Trust Coalition
Minnesota Homeownership Center
Neighborhood Development Alliance

NeighborWorks Home Partners
Northcountry Cooperative Foundation
One Roof Community Housing
PRG
Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity
Urban Homeworks