



WASHINGTON
COUNTY
Community
Development
Agency

7645 Currell Boulevard, Woodbury, MN 55125
office: 651-458-0936 fax: 651-458-1696

April 1, 2024

The Honorable Fue Lee, Chair
Capital Investment Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
485 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Dean Urdahl, Republican Lead
Capital Investment Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
279 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: SUPPORT FOR HF3568

Dear Chair Lee, Lead Urdahl, and Capital Investment Committee members:

On behalf of the Washington County Community Development Agency (CDA), I offer this letter of support for HF3568. I urge you to appropriate five million dollars from the bond proceeds fund to Washington County for the construction of an emergency housing services building.

The Washington County CDA works tirelessly to provide permanent affordable housing throughout Washington County. We maximize our federal, state, and local resources to provide tenant-based rental assistance, create and preserve apartments affordable to the local workforce, and provide financing to private developers to build affordable apartments and homes. All these efforts, however, are not enough to meet the current needs and demands for housing, resulting in higher rents and long wait lists for the rent-restricted units.

The growing disparity between rents and incomes is leaving many people without stable housing. Currently, Washington County has no capacity for adults without children in need of emergency shelter. This must change. Washington County has committed to building a 30-room emergency housing services building. The building will provide wrap around services to provide the customized services each individual needs before being connected to permanent housing.

This emergency housing services building is a necessary element to addressing the housing issues in Washington County. The \$5 million request is the final piece of the project funding needed to move the project forward.

Sincerely,


Melissa Taphorn
Executive Director