



March 1, 2023

Chair Michael Howard
473 State Office Building
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

RE: H.F. 1419

Dear Chair Howard and Housing Finance & Policy Committee members:

Cities and counties are important partners in addressing the acute shortage of homes both for rent and sale. While cities and counties have many levers and tools to help increase the supply of homes, cities and counties need additional financial resources to best address their communities' housing needs. H.F. 1419 provides reliable funding to the state's municipal and county partners.

Minnesota Housing Partnership (MHP) has provided direct technical assistance and capacity building services to communities throughout the state and nation. In our experience, cities and counties complement state and federal efforts. Local governments play a critical role in streamlining and effectively delivering programs to their residents because cities and counties are in a unique position to target resources to meet their development and preservation needs. Cities and counties are most attuned to the housing challenges facing their residents and often best understand how to creatively tailor solutions to unique local conditions.

Housing solutions must be responsive to unique needs, challenges, and resources. H.F. 1419 supports the efforts of local governments by helping cities and counties leverage the tools and resources already at their disposal. The affordable housing crisis requires an all-hands-on-deck approach. A comprehensive approach to addressing the affordable housing crisis includes state efforts to support the work of cities and counties.

Sincerely,

Libby Murphy
Director of Policy