



April 3, 2023

Dear Chair Gomez and Members of the House Taxes Committee,

On behalf of the Homes for All coalition, we write in support of the metro sales tax provision included in Article 5 of HF 2335.

Homes for All represents over 270 organizations across the state that advocate for safe, accessible, stable, and affordable housing across the housing continuum. Our coalition represents the full continuum of housing, from services for people experiencing homelessness, to permanent supportive housing, to affordable rental options, to homeownership opportunities for Minnesotans.

HF 2335 includes historic investments in housing, with \$1 billion of one-time appropriations for the FY '24-'25 biennium. And, we know more will be needed to meet our growing and complex housing crisis across the state. Article 5 of HF 2335 provides a dedicated revenue source for housing through a quarter cent sales tax in the seven-county metro area, which will go toward supporting rental assistance in the metro and local housing aid. Funding for a statewide rental assistance program- known as Bring it Home- has been a core agenda item for our coalition for many years, and we support blending the metro sales tax revenue and general fund appropriations to ensure people across the state have access to housing vouchers. And, the local housing aid will allow metro counties and qualifying cities to establish emergency rental assistance programs or develop and/or rehabilitate homeownership and rental properties for people with low incomes.

We have a housing crisis, meaning we need to make housing more affordable, through programs like housing vouchers, and to build more affordable housing across the state. The metro sales tax will help alleviate both of these needs in the Twin Cities metro, which is of critical importance.

As a coalition, we strongly believe we need to ensure people in Greater Minnesota have equitable access to affordable housing. For that reason, we support the metro sales tax now and also a statewide dedicated revenue source in the future. A dedicated revenue source for housing will ensure we have the funding needed to address the housing crisis across the state and equitably fund rental assistance and affordable housing development between Greater Minnesota and the metro in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Michael Dahl
Public Policy Director, HOME Line
Homes for All Policy Co-Chair

Annie Shapiro
Advocacy Director, MinnCAP
Homes for All Policy Co-Chair