



April 8, 2026

**Re: HF 2462 - resources to address housing challenges in Greater Minnesota cities**

Chair Howard, Chair Igo and members of the House Housing Finance and Policy Committee:

On behalf of our 842 member cities, the League of Minnesota Cities appreciates the opportunity to provide comments in support of HF 2462 (Norris), which would provide an additional \$20 million for the Workforce Housing Development Program, a program that assists small Greater Minnesota cities in addressing locally identified workforce housing needs.

Cities in Greater Minnesota share many of the same housing needs as metro communities. However, Greater Minnesota communities often have vastly different market conditions for housing that can necessitate priorities that vary from metropolitan areas. While local communities in Greater Minnesota are focusing on local efforts to attract development and encourage growth, assistance is often needed from state and federal resources to construct and rehabilitate housing stock that can bolster local economic growth and support expanding businesses.

A key priority for Greater Minnesota cities is attracting sufficient housing stock that can support a growing workforce. However, the economics of constructing single-family and multi-family housing developments in Greater Minnesota communities often makes attracting private development difficult. To help local efforts in attracting development to support the local workforce, the Workforce Housing Development Program is a critical resource that leverages local resources to assist with the development of multi-family workforce housing. To date, the program has supported the addition of hundreds of new rental units across communities across Greater Minnesota.

We strongly urge the support of robust funding for this program as it is consistently oversubscribed. The \$20 million increase in program funding will help more communities attract critical new workforce housing units in their communities to support local workforces and local economies.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Daniel Lightfoot'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent 'D' and 'L'.

Daniel Lightfoot  
Senior Intergovernmental Relations Representative  
League of Minnesota Cities



April 8, 2026

**Re: H.F. 2462 (Norris)**

Dear Chairs Howard and Igo, and members of the Housing Finance and Policy Committee,

On behalf of the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (“CGMC”), an organization of more than 100 cities located throughout the state outside the 7-county metropolitan area, and the Greater Minnesota Partnership (“GMNP”), an organization focused on expanding economic prosperity in Greater Minnesota, we wanted to share our support for H.F. 2462 (Norris). This bill would provide additional funding for the Workforce Housing Development program.

This committee is well aware of the critical role housing development plays in Greater Minnesota’s economic prosperity. These resources are crucial to closing the housing cost gap in the region. The cost of constructing a unit of housing is higher in Greater Minnesota than our communities can support in rent or mortgages, and investing additional resources into the Workforce Housing Development program will help close that gap.

Housing provides a foundation for stability, well-being, and opportunity for Minnesotans, impacting everything from health and education to economic mobility. A secure, affordable home allows individuals and families to thrive, access better jobs, and contribute positively to their communities. Affordable housing also helps communities attract and retain key businesses.

Our communities are working diligently to support and attract the development of additional housing, and this bill will help further that work. We welcome the chance to work with you to continue to address housing challenges in Greater Minnesota and thank you for this opportunity to weigh in on this bill.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Wefel  
Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities

Darielle Dannen  
Greater Minnesota Partnership