



May 5, 2021

**\*Sent via Email**

The Honorable Representative Marquart, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Youakim  
The Honorable Representative Lislegard  
The Honorable Representative Her  
The Honorable Representative Davids

The Honorable Senator Nelson, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Weber  
The Honorable Senator Miller  
The Honorable Senator Bakk  
The Honorable Senator Rest

### **Re: Omnibus Tax Bill Provisions**

Dear Chair Marquart, Chair Nelson, and Members of the Tax Conference Committee:

As the end of session nears and you begin deliberations on the omnibus tax bill (HF 991), we respectfully ask that you please consider the provisions outlined below that are important to Olmsted County.

#### **SUPPORT: State Housing Tax Credit** (Senate provision; Article 2, Sections 11 & 13)

Minnesota has a variety of affordable housing programs, however, with all the tools currently available to fund housing, the demand is not being met for affordable housing and affordable units to rent, nor is there a way to directly encourage private investment in meeting our workforce housing needs. The state housing tax credit included in the Senate tax bill will incentivize public private partnerships to help address housing shortages and affordability. A recent Maxfield Housing Study for Olmsted County indicates a need for 3,139 affordable housing units by 2030 and we don't believe it will be possible to meet this need without leveraging the private sector. We respectfully urge your support for the state housing tax credit.

#### **SUPPORT: Local Homeless Prevention Aid** (House provision; Article 8, Section 4)

Olmsted County supports the local homeless prevention aid included in the House tax bill. The county has been looking for ways to expand homeless prevention and assistance services to families and youth in our communities. The flexible and dependable funding this proposal provides would help Olmsted County achieve that goal.

#### **SUPPORT: County Relief Grants to Local Businesses** (House provision; Article 8, Section 5) **& Paycheck Protection Program Tax Conformity** (House and Senate provisions, Article 1)

Olmsted County supports grant funding to local businesses that have been impacted by COVID-19. The county also supports aligning Minnesota tax policy with the federal Paycheck Protection Program tax provisions. Both measures will provide needed COVID recovery assistance to local businesses and families.

**CONCERN: Property Tax Notices and Supplemental Information** (House provision, Article 7, Sections 23-24)

Olmsted County shares the goal of providing timely and transparent property tax information with the public. The county currently posts meeting notices, holds a public meeting, and shares budget information on our website, which aligns with one of the new provisions included in the House tax bill. We do have concerns with other requirements, however, including the proposal to schedule all property tax hearings back to back on the same day for school districts, cities, and counties. This will be logistically challenging for participants who would like to attend all three. The bill also requires a supplemental statement containing information on each taxing jurisdiction. These data do not currently reside in the county property tax data system. Gathering and reproducing this information will add complexity and administrative burden to counties with minimal additional benefit to residents.

Olmsted County is very grateful for your hard work this legislative session and for your commitment to serving our state. Thank you for your consideration of our positions on these tax issues and we would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
 Stephanie Podulke 5/5/2021 | 12:08 PM CDT  
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Stephanie Podulke, Chair  
Olmsted County Board of Commissioners  
[Podulke.Stephanie@co.olmsted.mn.us](mailto:Podulke.Stephanie@co.olmsted.mn.us)

CC: Olmsted County Legislative Delegation

Senator Senjem  
Representative Boldon  
Representative Liebling  
Representative Pierson  
Representative Quam