



Association of Minnesota Counties

February 8, 2021

Mr. Chair and Members of the House Capital Investment Committee:

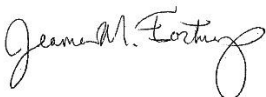
On behalf of the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), I want to share my strong support for housing infrastructure bonds to address the high need for affordable housing development and preservation across the state. Minnesota is experiencing its greatest housing shortage in decades and homelessness is on the rise.

AMC has increasingly been advocating for the dire need for affordable housing. A dearth of housing options has catastrophic effects on families, communities, and economies. Housing bonds are a tool that allows counties to partner with non-profit organizations and private developers to develop new housing to help meet the needs in their communities. Bonds leverage local, federal, and private investment and spur development that otherwise would not occur.

Housing bonds are flexible and can be used in a number of ways, including to build supportive housing for people or families experiencing or at risk of homelessness, preserve federally assisted rental housing, create affordable housing for seniors age 55 and older, finance manufactured home community infrastructure, and develop single-family homes. Without housing bonds, it is unclear how housing development and preservation can be achieved at a rate that would make any meaningful impact.

As an organization that represents all of Minnesota's 87 counties, I urge you to consider a meaningful investment in housing bonds that can help meet the high need throughout our state.

Sincerely,



Jeanna Fortney, Policy Analyst
Association of Minnesota Counties