



Building homes, community, and hope.

11 March 2025

Re: HF1987 MN Starter Home Act and HF 2013 Freedom in Home Design Act

To: Chair Igo and Members of the Housing Finance & Policy Committee

Dear Chair Igo and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota's (Habitat Minnesota) support of HF1987 and SF2013. Habitat Minnesota is a statewide support organization that provides training, technical assistance, lending, grants to the 24 local Habitat affiliates, working in 59 counties across the state. We are deeply invested in homeownership production and preservation and know that the stability of a family's living situation is closely tied to their wealth, health, and education.

Habitat Minnesota is part of *Yes to Homes*, a large and diverse coalition united around the common goal of creating statewide housing policy focused on meaningfully expanding development to increase the variety and supply of housing options.

Safe and stable homes are essential for strong communities, yet too many Minnesotans struggle to find housing that fits their needs. By updating zoning policies and expanding the types of homes that can be built, we can increase access to affordable homeownership, address affordability, support economic growth, and ensure families can find homes that meet their needs at every stage of life. Habitat Minnesota supports the following legislation that advances these goals:

- ❖ **HF1987 MN Starter Home Act** would allow smaller lots, duplexes, ADUS, and townhomes in residential zones. The bill also establishes a process for administrative approvals, ensuring local governments review and approve projects within a reasonable timeframe.
- ❖ **HF 2013 Freedom in Home Design Act** seeks to increase affordability by addressing the common exclusionary zoning tactic of aesthetic requirements. The state building code will still be in effect, preserving regulations related to safety, durability, or energy-efficiency.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support of HF1987 and HF2013 which will reduce barriers to building more home and ensure more families can afford a place to call home. Please reach out to myself or Jeru Gobeze (jeru.gobeze@habitatminnesota.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cristen Incitti".

Cristen Incitti, President & CEO
Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota
cristen.incitti@habitatminnesota.org