

House Housing Finance and Policy Committee
473 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155



February 21, 2023

Dear Chair Howard and Members of the Committee,

The Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers (MCCD) is an association of nonprofit community development organizations and Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) committed to expanding the wealth and resources of communities through housing opportunities and economic development initiatives. MCCD's mission to build strong and stable communities can only be achieved by addressing the inequities that have shaped housing policies at every level of government. These policies and practices have prevented Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and other communities from achieving housing stability, accessing capital, and building wealth.

MCCD is writing in support of HF 1635 to fund the Workforce and Affordable Homeownership Development Program. This funding source will serve as a critical tool to address the lack of affordable workforce homeownership opportunities in Minnesota. Our state is facing a severe shortage of affordable housing, but we can continue to make progress by investing in the development and preservation of affordable homes. Non-profit single-family developers are able to work with BIPOC households at far greater rates than the private market and with this funding program, we can begin to address the racial homeownership gap that impacts all of Minnesota.

By passing HF 1635, we can ensure consistent funding for this crucial program to develop and preserve affordable and accessible homes across Minnesota.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working with you this session to address Minnesota's affordable housing crisis. Please reach out to Kelly Law (klaw@mccdmn.org) should you have any questions or need further information.

Sincerely,

Elena Gaarder

Chief Executive Officer

Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers