



January 17, 2023

To: Senate Housing & Homelessness Prevention Committee Members

Re: Homes for All Letter of Support- Commissioner Jennifer Ho

Homes for All represents over 270 organizations across the state that advocate for safe, accessible, stable, and affordable housing across the housing continuum. As a coalition, we believe Minnesota can and must do better to provide safe and equitable housing and supportive services, and we are grateful to have Commissioner Ho as a partner and champion in our work.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Minnesota faced a housing crisis, with a severe shortage of affordable and safe rental and homeownership opportunities especially for the lowest income Minnesotans. And, COVID-19 has only exacerbated these crises. We have seen increasing numbers of evictions, an ever-growing inequities and disparities in homeownership.

During the pandemic, Minnesota Housing stood up three new housing stability programs: the COVID Housing Assistance Program (CHAP), RentHelpMN Emergency Rental Assistance, and HomeHelpMN. Minnesota Housing, under the leadership of Commissioner Ho, worked quickly to get critical dollars out the door to support renters, homeowners, affordable housing providers, and utility companies. Although these programs faced challenges during their development and implementation, we commend the Commissioner and her team for working diligently with Homes for All and our member organizations to make these programs as successful and useable as possible for Minnesotans who needed the assistance.

Commissioner Ho's commitment, knowledge and appreciation of equity and affordable housing, focus on the needs of the lowest income Minnesotans, and leadership will help Minnesota make sustained and lasting positive impacts in addressing our current housing crises across the state. Homes for All supports Commissioner Ho's confirmation.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully,

Dave Anderson
All Parks Alliance for Change
Homes for All Co-Chair

Rhonda Otteson
Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless
Homes for All Co-Chair