



January 24, 2023

To the Members of the Housing and Homelessness Prevention Committee,

The Minnesota Association of Small Cities would like to express our support for SF234. MN Small Cities represents cities of pop. 5,000 or fewer. Over 700 Minnesota communities are considered to be small cities and over 650,000 Minnesotans call small cities home. If there were more available workforce housing however, this number could be even higher.

Lack of workforce housing is one of the greatest concerns facing small cities today. Many Minnesotans are forced to travel more than 60 miles (one way) to work each day because there is not enough housing available in or nearby the small city in which they work. While many small cities have sought out options with developers to create more housing options, initial infrastructure costs often serve as a deterrent and severely limit new housing projects.

To expand the availability of housing in these communities (and fewer road miles driven), we must develop the critical and necessary infrastructure that is absent, such as water and sewer lines. The costs for new infrastructure needed to develop housing is a significant hurdle. The costs associated with providing infrastructure for new housing has limited the development of housing in small cities.

SF234 will provide a much needed tool for small cities to work collaboratively with developers to invest in housing options in many of these communities, by providing a unique and additional resource for cities looking to expand the types of housing available within their jurisdiction.

We urge you to support SF234 and add it as another option for cities seeking to bring additional housing into their communities.

  
Cap O'Rourke  
Minnesota Small Cities  
Executive Director

