



CHISAGO COUNTY
— HRA-EDA —
A Natural Resource for Business

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February 7, 2023

Chair Lindsey Port
95 University Ave W
Minnesota Senate Bldg, Room 3213
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

RE: S.F. 609

Dear Chair Port and Housing & Homelessness Prevention Committee members,

Local Housing Trust Funds are a proven tool that local communities can implement to respond to local housing needs. Trust Funds are flexible, adaptable, and easily deployable. I urge lawmakers to partner with us and support our initiatives by providing state matching funds to help us maximize and leverage our local investments.

Chisago County has determined our largest gap in housing is in affordable housing. Businesses in the county are unable to find employees as potential employees cannot find housing in the locally. Our program is new. We have approved a Housing Trust Fund for a tax credit project. We also have an application on its way for a small 12-plex affordable housing development. Once you get out of the metro area, it is more difficult for developers to cash flow, so we use the funds to incent the developers.

State partnership, through SF 609's State Match for LHFTs, is important to enhancing existing investments by cities and incentivizing others to take the next step in dedicating funds to housing solutions. I urge the committee to support our local investments and tailored, creative solutions.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Nancy Hoffman

Nancy Hoffman

cc: Senate Housing & Homelessness Prevention Committee Members