



Red Wing Housing & Redevelopment Authority

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February 8, 2023

Chair Lindsey Port
3213 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

RE: S.F. 609

Dear Chair Port and Housing and Homelessness Prevention Committee members,

Local Housing Trust Funds are a proven tool that local communities such as Red Wing 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.

Here in Red Wing we fund our Affordable Housing Trust Fund with our local HRA Levy funds on an annual basis. Over the course of several years we have utilized the funds to provide rehabilitation of owner-occupied housing, fund first time home buyer down payment assistance, and create new affordable rental units above existing downtown retail spaces. These funds help us meet our local priorities and positively impact our community.

State partnership, through SF609's State Match for LHTFs, is important to enhancing existing investments by cities like Red Wing 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kurt Keena', written in a cursive style.

Kurt Keena
Executive Director