



March 2, 2023

Chair Lindsey Port
Senate Housing & Homelessness Prevention Committee
RE: Senate File 817
3213 Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Ave. W.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Port,

Thank you and the Members of the Committee for allowing me the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of Senate File 817.

My name is David Larson, and I am the Government Affairs Director for Cooperative Network. Our members are owned by millions of residents throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin and include member-owned farm supply, dairy marketing, livestock marketing, financial, health care, mutual insurance, processing, electric utility, housing, food, and worker-owned cooperatives, among others.

We appreciate Senator Kunes and her bipartisan co-authors for bringing this important bill in front of the Committee to expand housing options across the state of Minnesota. Manufactured housing cooperatives represent affordable homeownership for members of any community, and are imperative in regions where businesses struggle to retain their workforce due to a lack of housing.

Senate File 817 not only continues the transition of manufactured homes from being treated as “personal property” to “real property”, it would also invest substantial funding through lending and infrastructure improvement options. This legislature has publicly stated that first-time homeownership is a priority, and this bill would help the push towards that goal with manufactured housing cooperatives serving as an affordable option. Also, the establishment of the manufactured home park cooperative purchase program would allow current residents access to the necessary funds to purchase their community and become a cooperative, which would then open the door to securing traditional financing on the property and pay back the loan fund.

On behalf of our cooperative members, we thank you for your co-authorship of this legislation and respectfully request the committee’s support of Senate File 817.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Larson
Government Affairs Director
Cooperative Network

CC: Members of the Senate Housing & Homelessness Prevention Committee