



March 16, 2023

**Chair**

**Lindsey Port, 55, DFL**

3213 Minnesota Senate Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-5975

**Vice Chair**

**Liz Boldon, 25, DFL**

3201 Minnesota Senate Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-3903

**Ranking Minority Member**

**Eric Lucero, 30, R**

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651-296-5655

**Rich Draheim, 22, R**

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**Karin Housley, 33, R**

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**Zaynab Mohamed, 63, DFL**

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651-296-4274

**Susan Pha, 38, DFL**

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**Ann H. Rest, 43, DFL**

328 Capitol  
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606  
651-296-2889

**RE: Support of Senate File 11**

Dear Chair Port and Members of the Senate Housing and Homelessness Prevention Committee.

Twin Cities Housing Alliance (TCHA) advocates for local and regional housing policy that creates a more affordable, equitable, economically vital, and environmentally sustainable future for the Twin Cities community.

Representing experts across the continuum of housing, we collaborate with local governments and allied organizations to develop solutions that alleviate the housing crisis and strengthen our regional vitality.

We are deeply involved in and concerned about finding practical solutions to address the alarmingly short supply in affordable housing, a problem which afflicts both the Twin Cities metropolitan area and in Greater Minnesota.

**We write to state our support for Bring it Home Minnesota (S.F. 11) (Mohamed; Westlin; Abeler; Hoffman; Fateh) which would create a state rent assistance program for low-income, cost burdened households.**

Many households with the lowest incomes simply cannot afford the price of rent despite working harder than ever. Real wages in many key sectors—including transportation, education, and health services—are declining while costs of living are increasing. The most immediate, effective, and straightforward intervention to help these families is direct rental assistance to pay for safe, stable housing that meets their family needs.

There is substantial evidence backing the efficacy of direct rental assistance. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities found rental assistance programs like Housing Choice Vouchers lifted 2.9 million people out of poverty in 2019, including 1.3 million children, and helped to significantly reduce the poverty rate among renters, from 24.7% to 15.3%. The Urban Institute found every dollar spent on rental assistance saves taxpayers \$1.50 in other costs like emergency room visits, shelters, and other public services needed when families experience homelessness.

Our region and state are at a pivotal point to rally behind a proven mechanism (direct rent assistance through housing choice vouchers) to protect and prioritize residents who are most vulnerable, experiencing the worse income disparities, and/or are at the greatest risk of displacement.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robb Bader, TCHA Board Chair  
President  
Bader Development

Cathy Capone Bennett  
Executive Director  
Twin Cities Housing Alliance