



MAHUBE-OTWA Community Action Partnership, Inc.

Serving Mahnomen • Hubbard • Becker • Otter Tail • Wadena Counties

Our Mission... To Empower People to Achieve Self Sufficiency

TO: Chair Port & Members of the Housing and Homeless Prevention Committees
RE: Support for SF4601
FROM: Liz Kuoppala, Executive Director
DATE: March 5, 2024

I write in strong support of SF 4601. Our 5,000 square mile service area does not have a single homeless shelter. We use very expensive hotel/motel vouchers and a few scattered site leased apartment units as our shelter system. With funding appropriated from the legislature, we secured \$1.7 million to build the region's first shelter on land donated by a generous community member but were shut down on technicalities and "lack of precedent" for such a facility.

We are not looking to create new precedents; we are looking to save lives. This bill could allow us to do that.

Thank you for your consideration. Thank you for seeing the humanity of people who have fallen on hard times. Thank you for creating emergency solutions while we collectively work on long-term solutions to the homeless epidemic.

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