



April 16, 2024

**Re: Comments on SF 4158 – Housing Finance and Policy Omnibus Bill**

Chair Port and members of the Senate Housing and Homelessness Prevention Committee:

The League of Minnesota Cities appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the housing appropriations and policy provision outlined in SF 4158 as amended by the A3 amendment. On behalf of our 838 member cities, we appreciate your attention this session on the vast scope of housing needs in cities across the state of Minnesota. While local governments are innovating with limited resources to address locally identified housing needs, an expanded state-local partnership and a continuation of state resources for housing are critical if we are to adequately address housing needs across the state.

**Articles 1 and 2: Housing Appropriations and Housing Policy**

***Housing Infrastructure Bonds*** – The authorization of \$50 million in Housing Infrastructure Bonds is crucial and will help construct and preserve units across the housing spectrum. Housing Infrastructure Bonds continue to be an important and flexible capital investment resource for housing utilized in communities across the state and we appreciate the inclusion of a historic level of Housing Infrastructure Bond authorization.

***Greater Minnesota Housing Infrastructure Grants*** – The League supports the change to the maximum grant amount under the program from \$30,000 to \$40,000 per lot and the additional flexibility to utilize funds for manufactured housing infrastructure. Infrastructure, especially in greater Minnesota cities, is often the most expensive component of residential development and state resources to assist cities with the cost of installing necessary infrastructure, especially in greater Minnesota, will help attract more development.

***Housing Redevelopment Authority Flexibility*** – The League appreciates the inclusion of policy language that allows housing and redevelopment authorities to provide financial assistance to assist with capital repair or replacement of an asset with a regular life span more than 25 years and with a project cost in excess of \$5 million if certain requirements are met. This provision will allow local HRAs with the ability to further assist with preserving housing stock by supporting the repair or replacement of housing that is older multifamily housing stock that may be in disrepair.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel Lightfoot". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daniel Lightfoot  
Intergovernmental Relations Representative  
League of Minnesota Cities