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Senator Lindsay Port
Chair, Committee on Housing and Homelessness Prevention
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3213
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Dedicated revenue via a constitutional amendment for housing

Dear Chair Port and Committee Members,

I am the Director of Align Minneapolis, an interfaith coalition of 18 faith congregations and people with lived experiences of homelessness working to address homelessness in Minneapolis. We believe that addressing homelessness is done by meeting immediate needs of our homeless and housing insecure neighbors, *and* through policy change and significant investment across the housing spectrum. We have an Emergency Rental Assistance program and see many households struggling to make ends meet because of lack of affordable housing and inadequate resources to help them weather even a short-term financial crisis. We work with many people who are experiencing homelessness through Street Voices of Change (a group of people with lived experiences of homelessness coming together to make change in their community) and our StreetSong MN choir, as well as through our congregations that provide direct service resources to the community. We hear every day about the challenges faced around housing and we know that our State can and must do better.

Our organization, along with Street Voices of Change have endorsed the Our Future Starts at Home campaign. We believe that our state needs ongoing, dedicated investment in housing. The state has significantly underinvested in housing, leading to the difficulties faced in our community with finding and maintaining housing that is affordable. We appreciate that you are holding an informational hearing on the proposed dedicated revenue via a constitutional amendment and look forward to continuing to work on this important initiative into the future.

Sincerely,

Katie Dillon

Director, Align Minneapolis | *Congregations Addressing Homelessness Together*