



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 for housing via a constitutional amendment for housing

Chair Port and Members of the Committee on Housing and Homelessness Prevention:

I write on behalf of Second Harvest Heartland, Minnesota's largest food bank, in support of dedicated, predictable funding for housing. Second Harvest Heartland serves 41 counties in Minnesota and 18 in western Wisconsin, partnering closely with the state's other food banks and more than 1,000 food shelves and food distribution programs.

Demand for emergency food assistance is at an all-time high, following three consecutive record-breaking years for hunger in Minnesota. Minnesotans struggling to make ends meet visited food shelves more than 7.5 million times in 2023, and 2024 is expected to far surpass that figure. Additionally, Second Harvest Heartland recently released the results of our first Statewide Hunger Survey, which showed that 20% of Minnesota households are food insecure. What's more, one in five food-secure households fear they may not be able to afford enough food in the year ahead. This growth in demand is unsustainable.

The emergency food system strives to provide low-barrier access to fresh and nutritious food for all Minnesotans. Yet we know that we cannot end hunger through charity alone. Ending hunger requires addressing its root causes, one of which is the lack of affordable housing options for far too many families throughout our state. By increasing dedicated and predictable funding for housing, we could build more financially stable futures for our neighbors and therefore lessen the pressure on our already-strained emergency food system.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal, and the positive impact it would have for hundreds of thousands of Minnesotans experiencing housing and food insecurity. Long-term, consistent investment is needed to address these long-term problems. A constitutional amendment for housing would guarantee that for housing in Minnesota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zach Rodvold".

Zach Rodvold
Public Affairs Director
Second Harvest Heartland