

Senate Housing and Homelessness
Prevention Committee
3213 Minnesota Senate Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155



Dear Chair Port and Members of the Committee,

February 11, 2025

The Minnesota Consortium of Community Developers (MCCD) is an association of nonprofit community development organizations and Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) committed to expanding the wealth and resources of communities through housing opportunities and economic development initiatives. MCCD's mission to build strong and stable communities can only be achieved by addressing the harms and inequities that have shaped housing and economic development policies at every level of government. These policies have prevented Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) and other communities from achieving housing stability, accessing capital, and building generational wealth.

We ask that you support the Our Future Starts at Home campaign and the proposed Constitutional Amendment for Housing.

Due to the incredible investments made by this committee in 2023, we know that more families are stably housed and less individuals are experiencing homelessness. However, due to the historic underinvestment in affordable housing over the past few decades, Minnesotans continue to face unprecedented levels of housing instability. There are simply not enough resources to address both our severe housing shortage and the increasing costs of housing for both renters and homeowners. We have a shortage of more than 100,000 homes in Minnesota, and we aren't building enough new homes to meet this demand. We know that housing unaffordability severely impacts individuals and families with the lowest incomes, and makes long-term housing stability more difficult to maintain.

A constitutional amendment for housing will provide a dedicated source of consistent funding so that we can be responsive to Minnesota's housing needs. By supporting the constitutional amendment, we can ensure that every person and family has access to the housing resources that meet their unique needs, and keep more Minnesotans safely in their homes.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our request. MCCD and our members would like to make ourselves available for any additional information to best help inform your decisions. Please reach out to Kelly Law, Senior Policy and Field Building Advisor at MCCD, 612-865-3170 or klaw@mccdmn.org, should you need any further information now or throughout the legislative session.

Sincerely,

Elena Gaarder

Elena Gaarder
Chief Executive Officer, MCCD