

Senate Housing and Homelessness Prevention Committee
95 University Ave W, St Paul, MN 55103



Dear Chair Port and Members of the Committee,

February 11, 2025

Homes For All is a coalition of over 240 organizations and individuals across Minnesota working together to prevent homelessness, meet the immediate needs of people experiencing homelessness, and ensure everyone, without exception, has a safe, decent, accessible home (rental/shared/homeownership) that is affordable at 30% of their income or less and that meets their needs in the community of their choice. Our coalition is led by people from diverse communities, including people who have experienced homelessness, housing instability, and housing discrimination, and representatives from faith communities, homelessness and housing providers, tenant advocacy organizations, and mediation and legal services.

The Homes for All Coalition appreciates the committee's dedication to addressing Minnesota's housing crisis as demonstrated in the 2023 Session. As you know, the disinvestment in affordable housing over the past 40 years is why Minnesotans are currently facing unprecedented housing instability.

We ask that you support SF 203 and invest \$400 million in Housing Infrastructure Bonds to ensure that every Minnesotan has a safe and affordable place to call home.

\$400 Million in Housing Infrastructure Bonds - On behalf of the Homes for All Coalition, we are requesting \$400 million in a new authorization of Housing infrastructure Bonds (HIBs). This amount will allow for projects to be funded across the entire affordable housing continuum including preservation of deeply affordable units serving folks at the greatest level of need, and financing to ensure we have enough single-family homes to meet the demand and close the racial homeownership gap. A predictable pipeline of funding is critical to ensuring that we are building and preserving enough affordable units to keep Minnesotan's safely and stably housed.

Minnesota is ranked among the top 10 for states with the most severe housing shortages. With a deficit of more than 100,000 homes, we simply aren't building enough homes to meet the increasing demand. This is even more true for Minnesotans with the lowest incomes. By investing in HIBs and affordable housing, we can begin to meet the demand and ensure that every individual and family has access to a home that they can afford. We will only begin to address our state's housing shortage by investing in new development and preservation every session, every year.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Sue Watlov Phillips

Sue Watlov Phillips
Co- Lead Homes for All Legislative Team