

Mary S. Gabler

Wells Fargo

Retired, SVP Community Relations

Tuesday, February 21, 2025

Chair Port and members of the Senate Housing and Homelessness Committee,

Dear Chair Port,

I am writing to express my support of the recommendations put forward from the Task Force on Long-Term Sustainability of Affordable Housing. As a former affordable housing developer and financier and recent board member of Simpson Housing, I believe the report provides a thoughtful analysis of the current challenges facing owners and operators of affordable housing, offers actionable recommendations to address this critical piece of our state's housing continuum.

The report highlights the need for long-term, sustainable solutions to ensure that all Minnesotans have access to safe, stable, and affordable housing.

Affordable housing is a statewide need, affecting families, seniors, and individuals across all communities. As the report outlines, the affordability gap continues to widen, putting many at risk of displacement and homelessness. The recommendations provided, including increased funding for affordable housing preservation and policy changes to alleviate barriers to affordable housing preservation, are essential to tackling this issue.

In particular recommendation 12 that asks for government service funding with capital funding to help ensure services for tenants is a critical need.

I strongly urge you to consider and support the implementation of the taskforce's recommendations, specifically those that aim to preserve the state's existing affordable and supportive housing stock. By doing so, we are ensuring the long-term stewardship of Minnesota taxpayer investments and safeguarding the affordable homes that many Minnesotans rely on.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to addressing this pressing issue. I look forward to seeing the positive changes that will come from this important work.

Sincerely,
Mary