



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

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Caroline Hood

President and CEO, RS EDEN

1931 West Broadway, Suite 101, Minneapolis, MN 55411

Tuesday, February 21, 2025

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

Dear Chair Port,

I am writing to express RS EDEN's support of the recommendations put forward from the Task Force on Long-Term Sustainability of Affordable Housing. The report, which 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. The evidence-proven, effective model of housing first does not work if there is not housing...first. We need to ensure that there are actual homes for people to live in, safely and stably.

RS EDEN provides permanent and supportive housing to 630 units, more people than 630 as many of those units are family units. Without these homes, these individuals would be unhoused, likely on the streets. Without investment in this critical need, Minnesotans who are living near the edge, will fall quickly and far. Organizations like mine, and others, will no longer be able to do our work, crippling the sector and our communities.

I strongly urge you to 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 stewardship of 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,  
Caroline Hood

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Caroline Hood'.