



Feb 25th 2025

RE: Taskforce on Long-Term Sustainability of Affordable Housing

Dear Chair Port and Members of the Housing and Homelessness Prevention Committee,

Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative appreciates the opportunity to support the final report from the Taskforce on Long-Term Sustainability of Affordable Housing. We commend the task force members' hard work in understanding the systemic issues facing the homes of thousands of low-income Minnesotans. The Task Force's proposals are essential fixes that should be implemented.

Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative is a non-profit housing provider and developer with 20 buildings that provide affordable homes for over 1,200 people. We primarily create supportive housing, which provides safe, affordable, and stable housing with on-site services for the most vulnerable Minnesotans who have experienced homelessness. Because of inadequate operations and service funding to meet increased costs, security needs, and acuity of need, it operates at an unsustainable level and puts those homes at risk.

Supportive housing is not alone. We are a member of the Minnesota Housing Stability Coalition and contributed to a recent data report showing widespread distress in a large percentage of publicly funded affordable housing buildings. You can access the report at <https://mnhousingstability.org/reports-and-resources/>.

We are grateful that the task force took this distress seriously, and we support all 18 recommendations proposed. We would especially draw your attention to recommendation 12, which points to the urgent need for adequate service funds to meet the needs of residents in supportive housing.

Please consider and support the implementation of the task force'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 vital work to preserve the homes of the lowest-income Minnesotans.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Benjamin Helvick Anderson".

Benjamin Helvick Anderson
VP of Policy and Organizing
Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative