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March 7, 2025

To: Chair Port and members of the Senate Housing & Homelessness Prevention Committee
Co-Chairs Igo and Howard, and members of the House Housing Finance & Policy Committee

From: Kyle Hanson, Executive Director, Agate Housing and Services

Chair Port, Co-Chairs Igo and Howard, and Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of Agate Housing and Services to express our strong support for SF 2214/HF 2276, appropriating funding for the Minnesota Homeless Study. The study has been a critical resource in understanding and addressing homelessness in Minnesota since 1991. It is unique in the United States in its partnership with tribal communities, as well as the comprehensive nature of the publicly available data collected over more than 30 years. The study is used to prioritize needs, identify systemic issues, and improve programs and policies to address homelessness in our state. Investment into this study represents incredible value, as the information is used to leverage and prioritize multiple other policies for Minnesotans impacted by homelessness and ensure that investments made are impactful long-term.

Without the Wilder study, we would lack crucial information that helps us to leverage private funding and measure the efficacy of our work.

The Minnesota Homeless Study and the companion Reservation Homeless Study are invaluable resources for anyone working to address homelessness and housing instability across the state. This includes state, county, and city officials, homeless service providers who are on the front lines supporting those individuals and communities most impacted by homelessness, and organizations that homeless individuals and families access for non-housing related services, such as healthcare, transportation services, and schools. Agate Housing and Services, calls on the committee to pass SF SF 2214/HF 2276 to ensure that the state continues to benefit from the insights provided by Minnesota Homeless Study data.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kyle Hanson', written over a white background.

Kyle Hanson
Executive Director
Agate Housing and Services