

April 22nd, 2026

Joint Religious Legislative Coalition
P.O. Box 4233
Saint Paul, MN 55104

Dear Chair Pappas and members of the Senate Capital Investment Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition in support of SF3839 (Port), which issues \$200 million in Housing Infrastructure Bonds (HIBs). The Joint Religious Legislative Coalition (JRLC) is a state-wide coalition formed through the partnership of our three sponsoring faith organizations: the Minnesota Catholic Conference, the Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas, and the Minnesota Council of Churches. As people of faith, we advocate alongside our neighbors of differing religious backgrounds to address poverty, uphold the dignity of overlooked communities, and mitigate societal harm.

The increasing cost of housing is reaching untenable levels for many Minnesota families. More than 1 in 5 children (22%) live in cost-burdened households, where more than 30% of the household's income goes toward housing. Approximately 24% of renters are severely cost-burdened, meaning they spend more than 50% of their income on housing. According to Wilder Research, nearly 1 in 8 Minnesota households are paying at least half their income for housing, constituting the highest rate of severely cost-burdened households in a decade. We believe it is essential to provide a stable, affordable supply of housing for the economic wellbeing of our communities. Increasing the supply of housing will help lower costs and prevent many of our neighbors from falling into homelessness.

For 2026, the JRLC has advocated for \$200 million in HIBs, and we are grateful to Sen. Port for including this amount in SF3839. We understand the limitations on state funding availability and appreciate your prioritization of HIBs as you move forward with this proposal.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Leah Patton
Executive Director, Joint Religious Legislative Coalition