May 2, 2011
Senator Geoff Michel
208 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Protect MHFA Programs to Create Jobs, Restore Homes, End Homelessness

Dear Sen. Michel,

As participants in the HousingJobs campaign and partners in achieving the state's housing goals, we are asking you to protect the housing and homeless programs of the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency.

Minnesota Housing programs provide a critical array of resources to meet our state's housing demands. These programs provide:

- Reasonably priced homes and apartments for working families, and a safety net for the homeless,
- Significant job creation through rental construction and foreclosed and vacant home rehabilitation, and
- A substantial return to the state from construction-related payroll, sales, and deed taxes.

A diversity of housing types and levels of affordability are necessary for Minnesota to weather tough economic times and also to enable our state's communities to thrive in a strengthening economy. Housing industry experts and public officials agree that one lesson learned from our recent foreclosure crisis is that there were too few financially sound housing options available for Minnesotans.

As the Jobs and Economic Development budget is finalized, we ask you to consider how important and critical Minnesota Housing's programs are in responding to the recent economic crisis. The Challenge and Affordable Rental Investment Funds are used by developers to create, rehabilitate, and preserve an array of housing options for families, seniors and workers. The Family Housing Prevention and Assistance Program and the Housing Trust Fund prevent homelessness or minimize durations of homelessness and thereby stop much more complicated and stressful problems from developing.

We appreciate your past efforts to minimize reductions to Minnesota Housing's budget. We call for your leadership in seeking 2012-13 funding to preserve existing housing affordability, create new homes where needed, and to prevent and end homelessness.

Sincerely,

Adonis Eco-Housing
Aeon
AICDC
Albert Lea HRA
Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency
Asian Pacific American Housing Consortium
Aurora/St. Anthony Neighborhood Development Corporation
Builders Association of Minnesota
Cabrini Partnership
Central Minnesota Housing Partnership
Children’s Hope International
City of Brooklyn Park
City of Lakes Community Land Trust
City of St. Paul
Commissioner Steve O’Neil
CommonBond Communities
Community Action Duluth
D.W. Jones, Inc.
Dominium Development & Acquisition LLC
Duffy Development Co.
Duluth HRA
Duluth Local Initiatives Support Corporation
Emerge Community Development
Family Housing Fund
First Homes
Greater Frogtown CDC
Greater Minnesota Housing Fund
Hearth Connection
HHELPnet
Hmong American Partnership
Housing Preservation Project
Inter-County Community Council
Jackson HRA
Lakes and Prairies CAP
Legacy Companies
Mahube Community Council, Inc.

Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers
Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council
Minnesota Chapter NAHRO
Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless
Minnesota Community Action Partnership
Minnesota Community Land Trust Coalition
Minnesota Housing Partnership
North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters
Northern Communities Land Trust
Northside Residents Redevelopment Council
Otter Tail Wadena Community Action Council, Inc.
Plymouth Church Neighborhood Foundation
Podawiltz Development
Project for Pride in Living
R & R Family Ctrs
Rondo Community Land Trust
Sand Companies, Inc.
Simpson Housing Services, Inc.
South East Minnesota Citizens Action Council
Southeast Minnesota Multi-County HRA
Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership
Southwestern Minnesota Opportunity Council
St. Paul Public Housing Agency
Three Rivers Community Action
Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity
Twin Cities Local Initiatives Support Corporation
Two Rivers Community Land Trust
Vail Place
Weis Builders Inc.
West Hennepin Affordable Housing Land Trust

CC: Senator Pederson, Senator Miller, Senator Daley, Senator Lillie, Representative Gunther, Representative Hoppe, Representative McFarlane, Representative Sanders, Representative Kieffer