

## Thank you for agreeing to “take it to the steps” for affordable housing this session.

Legislators listen when you speak as a voting citizen and engaged professional. MHP and the *Homes for All* coalition’s \$130 million housing bond request is unprecedented and will require the help of strong advocates to secure. Your outreach to legislators is crucial to educating lawmakers about how vital state resources are to the services you and your organization provide to the community. Here are a few ways in which MHP will solicit your help this session:

### One-on-one visits with legislators at the Capitol

An in-person visit from a constituent is the number one way to influence elected officials. Your advocacy as a business, non-profit, or government leader is one of the most effective ways to convince legislators of the need for affordable housing. If you’re interested in going to the Capitol and speaking with your elected officials, here is how the process will work:

**Pre-visit prep:** MHP will work with you to schedule a visit the Capitol. Our policy staff will identify legislators for you to meet with and schedule meetings. MHP will provide background information on legislators, a meeting goal and agenda, a tailored “ask,” and materials to leave with legislators.

**On-site visit:** An MHP policy staffer will accompany you to your meetings at the Capitol. She or he will make sure you get to the right office on time. Legislators’ schedules are subject to last minute changes. Visits to the Capitol require some flexibility. MHP will help you navigate these changes so you get the most out of your trip to the Capitol.

**Immediately after the meeting:** If you offer to follow up with more information in your meeting, MHP will help gather the information and deliver it to your legislator.

**Further follow-up:** MHP may call upon you to contact a legislator’s office if there is movement on key legislation in committee or a floor vote is expected. MHP will provide messaging and instructions on how to follow up.

For more information on one-on-one visits with legislators, check out MHP’s [Action Tools](#) webpage. Please contact Libby Murphy at [libby.murphy@mhponline.org](mailto:libby.murphy@mhponline.org) with any questions.

## Letters to the Editor (LTE)

Writing a commentary or LTE is an effective way to raise awareness among the general public, as well as legislators and public officials. Your letter can be a response to something in the news, make a point that was omitted in an article, or disagree with or correct misinformation from a news story, editorial, or another letter. Sending a letter to the editor raises the issue's profile in the news outlet.

MHP may notify you of a need for an LTE and solicit your assistance. If you are able and willing, MHP's communications staff will provide you with specific messaging to include in the letter, review writing guidelines, edit your LTE, and provide instructions on how to submit your letter to the relevant news outlet and in the method requested.

For more information on submitting LTEs, check out MHP's [Action Tools](#) webpage. Please contact Victoria Clark at [victoria.clark@mhponline.org](mailto:victoria.clark@mhponline.org) with any questions.

## Contacting leadership directly

MHP will solicit help in contacting the Governor's Office and House and Senate leadership. We need leadership to support bonds for housing. It is imperative these offices hear from leaders whose businesses and organizations contribute to providing safe, decent, and affordable housing in Minnesota.

These efforts will likely entail writing an email or making a phone call. MHP will draft letters and provide you email and phone instructions to make the actions simple and efficient.

## Each One Reach One

MHP asks every advocate to help us recruit one more advocate. Please ask a colleague in the affordable housing community to help pass \$130 million for bonding this year. You can email or call Libby Murphy directly with a colleague's contact information or forward her the information. Libby can be reached at [libby.murphy@mhponline.org](mailto:libby.murphy@mhponline.org) or 651-925-5556.

