



October 14, 2021

Senator Amy Klobuchar
Senator Tina Smith
Representative Angie Craig
Representative Tom Emmer
Representative Jim Hagedorn
Representative Betty McCollum
Representative Ilhan Omar
Representative Michelle Fischbach
Representative Dean Phillips
Representative Pete Stauber

Via email

Re: Infrastructure and Economic Recovery Bills

Dear Senators and Representatives:

We write to urge your support for housing to be included at robust levels in the Build Back Better reconciliation bill still under negotiation. Housing investments are critical to health, climate, education, and racial equity; they are necessary infrastructure for families and communities, for individuals, and for our overall economy.

Minnesota needs housing and housing services, to ensure the continued economic viability of our state and our residents. Here are some key facts about housing in Minnesota:

- **More housing is needed, especially more affordable homes.** Minnesota needs 300,000 new housing units of all types and price points by 2030. And, in Minnesota, there is critical need for housing for extremely low-income renters. Of the 169,585 renter households at 30% AMI (area median income), 105,347 do not have available and affordable housing, a crisis exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Investments are needed to increase homeownership for households of color.** Racial disparities in Minnesota are among the worst in the nation. While 77 percent of all white households own their home, 60 percent of Asian, 50 percent of Hispanic, 49 percent of Native American, and just 25 percent of Black households own their homes.
- **Cost burden disparities reflect affordable housing shortage.** The number of cost burdened households has increased 53%, from 350,000 in 2000 to over 536,000 in 2019, reflecting a shortage of housing that is affordable. In Minnesota, 44 percent of white renters are cost burdened compared to 58 percent of Black renters, reflecting a significant race disparity in cost burden.
- **Rural housing needs robust investment.** Years of declining investment in the renovation of existing and construction of new housing in our small towns and farming communities has



resulted in a housing deficit. Around 13,500 extremely low-income Minnesotans live in rental USDA housing, much of which is aging and not maintained in health, safe, and resilient condition.

- **Preservation investments for rental and single family needed throughout our state.** Minnesota has roughly 360,000 rental units that are affordable to households with incomes at or below 50% of AMI. As well, almost 15% of the state's owner-occupied housing stock has a value of \$100,000 or less, which is affordable. Most of these homes need significant investments to ensure they are healthy, safe, and remain affordable.

We urge your support for Minnesota families that are facing a historic housing shortage by ensuring the infrastructure bills include robust housing investments at the highest possible levels. The House's Build Back Better Act included more than \$300 billion in funding for new and existing federal housing programs, including public housing, weatherization, housing services, rental assistance, homeownership supports, and investment in the Housing Credit.

Please let the White House, House leadership and Senate leadership know of your support for housing investments. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Alliance Housing Inc.
American National Bank
Artspace
Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative
Catholic Charities of St. Paul & Minneapolis
Center for Economic Inclusion
CSH
Central Minnesota Housing Partnership, Inc.
City of Minneapolis
City of Winona
Dominium
Freedom From the Streets
Fresh Energy
Golden Valley Affordable Housing Coalition
Greater Minnesota Housing Fund (GMHF)
Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota, Inc.
Housing Justice Center
Integrated Community Solutions, Inc.
Inquilinx Unidxs por Justicia
Isuroon (Strong Women Strong communities)
LISC Duluth
Mental Health Resources
Midwest Minnesota Community Development Corporation
MICAH-Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing
Minneapolis Highrise Representative Council
Minnesota Housing Partnership
Minnesota NAHRO



Minneapolis Regional Chamber
MSR Design
Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers (MCCD)
Olmsted County Board of Commissioners
Our Spring Lake Store LLC
Palenius Consulting
PRG, Inc.
Project for Pride in Living
Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership (SWMHP)
Southeastern MN Multi-County Housing & Redevelopment Authority (SEMMCHRA)
Three Rivers Community Action
Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc
Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity
Volunteers of America MN WI

Encl:

Minnesota Housing, [10 Trends in Housing 2020](#)

MHP, [2021 State of the State's Housing](#)

MHP's housing profiles for each of Minnesota's eight Congressional districts.

- [Minnesota's 1st Congressional District](#)
- [Minnesota's 2nd Congressional District](#)
- [Minnesota's 3rd Congressional District](#)
- [Minnesota's 4th Congressional District](#)
- [Minnesota's 5th Congressional District](#)
- [Minnesota's 6th Congressional District](#)
- [Minnesota's 7th Congressional District](#)
- [Minnesota's 8th Congressional District](#)