



Association of Minnesota Counties

March 28, 2022

Chair Hausman
453 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Hausman and Members of the House Housing Finance and Policy Committee:

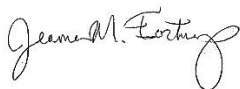
On behalf of the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), I want to share my strong support for HF3244 (Hausman) which provides \$400 million for housing infrastructure bonds (HIB) to address the high need for affordable housing development and preservation across the state. Minnesota is experiencing its greatest housing shortage in decades and homelessness is on the rise.

AMC, which represents all 87 counties in the state, has increasingly been advocating for the dire need for affordable housing. A dearth of housing options has catastrophic effects on families, communities, and economies. HIBs are a tool that allows counties to partner with non-profit organizations and private developers to develop new housing to help meet the needs in their communities. Bonds leverage local, federal, and private investment and spur development that otherwise would not occur.

HIBs are flexible and can be used in a number of ways, including to build supportive housing for people or families experiencing or at risk of homelessness, preserve federally assisted rental housing, create affordable housing for seniors age 55 and older, finance manufactured home community infrastructure, and develop single-family homes. Without housing bonds, it is unclear how housing development and preservation can be achieved at a rate that would make any meaningful impact.

I urge the committee to support HF3244 which provides a meaningful investment in housing infrastructure bonds that can help meet the high need throughout our state.

Sincerely,



Jeanna Fortney
Policy Analyst