

HENNEPIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 7, 2024 S

Representative Michael Howard, Chair
House Housing Finance and Policy Committee
473 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Howard,

I am writing you today in support of HF 4169/SF4020, which would provide the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority with a one-time grant of \$35 million dollars to clear the capital backlog on the agency's portfolio of 700+ deeply affordable family homes.

The region, Hennepin County, and Minneapolis in particular, lack a stable and adequate supply of deeply affordable housing and funding provided in this bill would address this need. This state investment would both stabilize the lives of the 3,100 Minneapolis residents living in these homes today, 88 percent of whom are Black, 86 percent of whom are female-led, and nearly two-thirds of whom are households of five or more—while also providing thousands of families access to safe, stable, affordable, permanent housing for decades to come.

The Minneapolis Public Housing Authority is an important partner in addressing our region's housing disparities. For example, Hennepin County utilizes the agency's Emergency Housing Vouchers to assist with rapid-rehousing efforts of previously unsheltered individuals, and places individuals from the County's Coordinated Entry homeless assistance program into MPHA-owned housing.

I urge the legislature to approve this one-time funding so the Authority can continue providing safe, stable, affordable, permanent housing to thousands of families for decades to come.

Sincerely,



Irene Fernando
Chair

Irene Fernando, Chair
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