



Red Wing Housing & Redevelopment Authority

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February 7, 2023

Chair Michael Howard
473 State Office Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

RE: H.F. 950

Dear Chair Howard and Housing Finance & Policy Committee members,

Local Housing Trust Funds are a proven tool that local communities such as Red Wing can implement to respond to our local housing needs. Trust Funds are flexible, adaptable, and easily deployable. I urge lawmakers to partner with us and support our initiatives by providing state matching funds to help us maximize and leverage our local investments.

Here in Red Wing we fund our Affordable Housing Trust Fund with our local HRA Levy funds on an annual basis. Over the course of several years we have utilized the funds to provide rehabilitation of owner-occupied housing, fund first time home buyer down payment assistance, and create new affordable rental units above existing downtown retail spaces. These funds help us meet our local priorities and positively impact our community.

State partnership, through HF950's State Match for LHTFs, is important to enhancing existing investments by cities like Red Wing and incentivizing others to take the next step in dedicating funds to housing solutions. I urge the committee to support our local investments and tailored, creative solutions.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kurt Keena". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Kurt Keena
Executive Director

cc: House Housing Finance & Policy Committee Members