



June 10, 2024

Michigan House of Representatives
Economic Development and Small Business Committee
State Representative Jason Hoskins, Chair
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

RE: Support for HB 5651-5653, HB 5768-5770, SB 559, and SB 562

Dear Members of the House Economic Development and Small Business Committee,

On behalf of Housing North, I would like to thank you for your work on behalf of the housing shortage in Michigan.

As you continue to debate and take action on the package of bills that seeks to update the Strategic Outreach and Attraction Reserve (SOAR) program, our organization would like to share our support of the housing components of this package, namely, the additional funding to be allocated to the Michigan Housing and Community Development Fund, and the Revitalization and Placemaking (RAP) Fund.

We believe that the changes being proposed can have a significant impact on closing the housing gap by providing significant resources for struggling housing projects in our region.

Access to low cost capital is one of the most pressing needs for developers large and small as they seek to put the puzzle pieces together that result in housing development. The recent Housing Needs Assessment conducted for our region showed a significant need for housing in northwest lower Michigan for those making 60-120% of the AMI or less. The numbers include both for sale and rental units, and it is important that the region has rental options available in the 80-120% AMI range so residents can begin to settle and eventually obtain homeownership.

Housing North is a mission driven nonprofit formed in 2018. We support community partners that are working towards housing solutions. Our mission is to build awareness, influence policy, and expand capacity so communities can create housing solutions that

Creating pathways and partnerships for housing in Northwest Michigan.

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meet their unique needs. Our vision is that Northwest Michigan will be a place where families of all income levels can find homes that are safe and affordable.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me at 231-335-1685 or via email yarrow@housingnorth.org to discuss any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Yarrow Brown". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Yarrow Brown, Executive Director

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