Habitat for Humanity® of Douglas County Minnesota

We build strength, stability, self-reliance and shelter.

November 16, 2026

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Tax Expenditure Review Commission,

Thank you for the opportunity to share Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County's (HFHDC) support for the continuation of the State Housing Tax Credit (SHTC) Program. Since 1997, HFHDC has been serving Douglas County by building affordable homes for qualified homebuyers that earn between 30% and 80% AMI. We have served 100 families to date, with two more homes closing this month and three homes currently under construction.

The State Housing Tax Credit program has been an incredible tool for Greater Minnesota and for Habitat for Humanity. In Douglas County, the SHTC has been a vital source of funding for the construction of new homes. With construction costs still high and demand for affordable starter homes growing, we are looking for all available resources to keeping homeownership within reach for local families.

Supporters of HFHDC have shared that the SHTC is a "no brainer" and a nice way for them to keep their tax dollars local. A local business took advantage of the SHTC to support workforce housing in Douglas County.

We urge members of the Tax Expenditure Review Commission to vote to continue the State Housing Tax Credit Program so this critical tool can continue to operate and the local partnerships we are building today can be sustained for years to come.

We also support efforts to improve geographic balance. Last year, many individuals and several businesses were disappointed to find they could not contribute because the available credits were fully allocated within two hours. The need for workforce housing in Douglas County is great: a recent study shows that 10 new homes are needed each year, and HFHDC is currently the only organization building starter homes.

Thank you for your consideration and for your work evaluating this program. We appreciate the opportunity to share our experience and would be happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Christine Reilly

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