

Public Comment for the Interim Finance Committee  
April 7, 2022

Thank you Chair Brooks, Vice Chair Carlton and the committee. For the record, Katie Coleman, Nevada Rural Housing Communications Director. What does affordability look like? Affordability looks like Rick, a formerly homeless veteran who lives at Richards Crossing, an affordable community built by Nevada Rural Housing in Carson City. Rick told me once that not only did the hand up ensure a safe place to sleep at night, but that it got him on a path toward being able to apply for a job, reconnecting with family and achieving some stability. It's tough to do that from the street. Affordability looks like Samantha who works in housing herself, and her husband, Brian, as a welder. With assistance from our Home at Last Program, they were able to purchase a home of their own in Winnemucca, giving their family a better opportunity for generational wealth. My job is to help tell the housing story, and these stories are part of a much larger ecosystem. In fact, we are ALL part of the housing ecosystem. It not only consists of individuals who are working to grow into the next rung on the housing ladder, it also consists of interdependencies. We all know our communities need Brian there to do those welding jobs. Teachers who can work and live in the areas they serve. The server at the restaurant you like to frequent. The dental hygienist. The law enforcement officer. Those in the service and hospitality industries ... if we can't all survive and thrive in the communities we serve, the ecosystem fails. I encourage you to think about the veterans like Rick, the Brians and Samanthas, those who serve our communities in important and vital ways, as you make many important decisions today. I ask that this committee vote to transfer \$250 million to the Home Means Nevada initiative category to allocate to the Department of Business and Industry, Housing Division for the purposes of developing and preserving affordable housing in Nevada. Thank you.