



July 27, 2021

Members of the Frontline Worker Pay Working Group:

The Minnesota Multi Housing Association (MHA) is an industry nonprofit made up of 1,700 members representing 400,000 housing units in Minnesota. The multifamily rental housing industry supports over 28,000 jobs in Minnesota. During the pandemic these workers were considered essential. They consistently maintained personal interactions with their residents at the same location where their residents were sheltering-in-place to best avoid contracting and spreading COVID-19. We ask today that the Frontline Worker Pay Working Group consider building managers and maintenance technicians for direct financial support to frontline workers.

Housing stability was a top priority during the pandemic and led to unprecedented regulation of the industry. This regulation removed the ability to remedy some tough situations in rental buildings. Building managers and maintenance technicians were on the frontline and continued to deliver on their responsibilities while others were reminded to stay safe, stay home, and wear a mask.

While others were significantly limiting their in-person interactions, members of our industry necessarily continued to interact with their residents. Repairs to rental units needed to be done to ensure housing stability and neighbor tensions needed to be deescalated due to unruly behavior, both of which were priority concerns that MHA heard from our members throughout the pandemic. These circumstances lead to managers and maintenance technicians having regular in-person interactions with their residents and completing maintenance requests in their units. During this time, the country was faced with a limited supply of quality masks for such close interactions. Despite the concerns over COVID-19 and their personal safety, maintenance technicians continued to enter these units to make the repairs to ensure housing stability for their residents.

Again, we ask that you include the vitally important residential building managers and maintenance technicians in your recommendations. During the pandemic they continued to risk COVID-19 exposure through their regular interactions which could not be conducted through virtual options.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cecil Smith", is written over a thin horizontal line.

Cecil Smith, President and CEO
Minnesota Multi Housing Association