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## **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

To the editor:

On the heels of Gov. Jesse Ventura's trip to Rochester to see First Homes' progress since his first visit 15 months ago, we need to remember what brought us this progress: the donations of businesses, organizations and individuals.

These donors are keenly aware that the Rochester area is experiencing significant economic growth and employers need a good stable of workers. With the right mix of housing, our region can attract the necessary number of workers for the jobs our employers need to fill.

While 74 area families now are living in new homes made affordable by the First Homes program, there are hundreds of additional families who stand to benefit from this housing initiative. The Rochester Area Foundation continues its \$12.75 million fund-raising effort to aid in this effort.

Our governor's visit emphasizes the importance of available workforce housing in our region, especially in Rochester, Dover, Plainview, Kasson, Chatfield, Spring Valley, Pine Island, Hayfield, Zumbrota and Byron, all communities already hosting First Homes' housing. Our donors show us not only that the need exists, but also the support that exists in the area. We thank those who have contributed to First Homes' success and we look forward to the donations of others as our work continues in the years ahead.

Sean Allen  
Executive Director  
First Homes  
Rochester