

Thank you Mr. Chair and members of the committee. My name is B Rosas, I use They/Them pronouns and I was a part of the Keep Saint Paul Home campaign. I have been a renter my whole life, so the issue of housing is important to me, as is building community to ensure we can survive.

Hearing this bill coming out of the State Senate was shocking to me, I never thought that the democracy of Minnesotan communities would be up for questioning. State representatives are here to uplift the voices of the voters, not try to silence them.

What we saw in Saint Paul was an act of solidarity. People of different races, cultures, and job titles came together to tackle housing inequalities hurting Minnesotans. This should be celebrated.

What happened in Saint Paul was not an accident, our opposition spent millions against our communities and we still won. Our hard work of talking to over 30,000 residents in Saint Paul should not be looked at as bad behavior. The voices of the working class people should not be overshadowed by the real estate lobby that lost big this last November.

Local initiatives are not the problem, they are the solution to generations of displacement, harm, and inequalities that still exist in this state. This bill would not tackle any of that. Thank you.