

### **3/10/22 Housing Committee testimony from Hannah Merrill – Minneapolis resident**

"My name is Hannah Merrill, and I live and work in Minneapolis.

Last fall, the people of Minneapolis voted to open up a conversation about rent stabilization, joining our neighbors in St Paul who voted that same day to enact a policy. Today, members of this body seek to undermine and erase the voices and votes of over 100,000 Minnesotans. This is an attack on our democracy, and the rights of Minnesotans to have a say in their communities.

To those of you who will vote no, thank you. Thank you for defending our democracy. I urge you to continue to defend and strengthen it.

To those of you who will vote yes, it's time to be honest with your constituents about who you serve. Because it is not most of them. It is not every day Minnesotans. To be party to undermining of the will of the people is to show that you do not serve the people, or this state, but that you serve those who benefit when Minnesotans do not have a voice, who benefit when democracy is weakened.

This isn't about rent. It's about power and who holds it. A democracy where we do not ALL have a voice, regardless of where we live, what we look like, or how much money we make, is not a democracy. It is elite, minority rule. As a Minnesotan, as an American, as a lover of democracy, this is unacceptable.

I urge you to vote against SF3414 and against the erasure of the voices of everyday Minnesotans.

Thank you."