



March 4, 2024

Dear Senate Environment, Climate and Legacy Committee: via kara.josephson@mnsenate.gov

The Twin Cities Housing Alliance (TCHA) is a collaborative network dedicated to addressing the housing challenges and strengthening community vitality in the Twin Cities region. Our network of 80 experienced housing professionals advocate for policies to create a more affordable, equitable, economically vital, and environmentally sustainable future for the Twin Cities community.

We are deeply involved in and concerned about finding practical solutions to address the alarmingly short supply of housing.

We write to state our support for S.F. 4183, which would provide clarity that City Comprehensive Plans are exempt from review under the Minnesota Environmental Rights Act (MERA). The proposed legislation would allow for the development of thousands of needed housing units that are stalled due to pending litigation and eliminates the risk in suburban locations for new housing development at higher densities as outlined in their comprehensive plans.

In a time when the region has a severe housing shortage of over 80,000 units, restricting production is counterproductive and will only exacerbate the problem. Continuing to allow litigation requiring onerous and inefficient environmental reasons related to city comprehensive plans that outline areas to increase housing densities will eliminate the ability to produce more needed housing in our region.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robb Bader, TCHA Board Chair
President
Bader Companies

Cathy Capone Bennett
Executive Director
Twin Cities Housing Alliance