



March 5, 2024

Senator Mitchell and Representative Kraft:

The Minnesota AFL-CIO represents over 300,000 members of over 1,000 local unions. We are writing to express our support of efforts to legalize “missing middle” housing contained in HF4009/SF3964 and HF4010/SF3980. Our members are proud to join this bi-partisan effort as part of a broad coalition including faith leaders, community activists, local government officials, and the business community.

Workers, like all Minnesotans, need housing they can afford. Too often workers win pay raises at the bargaining table and then lose the extra money as rents and home prices skyrocket. Because of this, our 2018 Constitutional Convention endorsed a housing resolution which said we must “zone for and construct more homes” and that we should “allow for denser multi-family housing.” On Feb. 13 of this year, our General Board passed a more specific resolution that included this provision:

Resolved; At the state level, the Minnesota AFL-CIO and affiliates shall support legislation to reduce the ability of local governments to make denser forms of housing illegal, including limiting their local zoning power, eliminating minimum parking requirements, and, generally, allowing more opportunity to build multi-family housing by-right. In addition, the MN AFL-CIO and affiliates shall support legislation to relax these limits further, if not eliminate them completely, along transit corridors.

The provisions of HF4009/SF3964 and HF4010/SF3980 well reflect our Board resolution and therefore we endorse the bill.

Minnesota workers are willing to build the abundant housing our state needs and we can build it at a price Minnesotans can afford. We don't think that local governments need absolute and unlimited power to make it illegal to build what people can afford. This bill is a modest step that preserves the power of local government to reflect local conditions, while making it easier to build enough homes for all.

Best regards,

Melissa Hysing
Legislative Director

