

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to ask you support HF4009. As a city Councilmember in Robbinsdale I see firsthand how lack of affordable housing can hold back communities. Robbinsdale is considered “fully developed”, so it is incredibly difficult to increase housing without intervention from the city. This bill will make it easier for neighborhoods like mine to grow and welcome more new residents.

Minnesotans work hard and shouldn't have to make the choice between moving or having their entire paycheck go towards housing. Some people don't even have that choice and are forced to leave their community when it becomes too expensive to live there. We need statewide rules that increase the amount of affordable housing throughout Minnesota. We should make it easier for everyone to live in the city that they want to live in. This bill will do that.

The effects of climate change and its causes have made it clear that more sprawling suburban development centered on single family homes is not the answer. Denser housing has a measurable positive impact on green house gas emissions. It is often the first step towards expanded public transit, new business growth, and creating more walkable communities. If our state seriously wants to reach its climate goals we need to pass this bill.

Robbinsdale is doing what it can to address the challenges of housing affordability and of climate change. However, we can't do it alone. I strongly urge you to implement this legislation to alleviate a financial burden faced by every working class Minnesotan. They are the ones that make our state great and, as such, have the right to live where they so choose. They also deserve a healthy environment and by limiting sprawl we can literally save green spaces and hopefully create more.

Thank you for your work on this.

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