



March 7, 2023

**RE: Multifamily Residential Development (SF3980)**

Dear Chair Port and Members of the Housing and Homelessness Prevention Committee,

Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative appreciates the opportunity to comment in support of SF 3980. This bill is a positive step forward in allowing more housing to be created and advancing racial equity.

Beacon believes that affordable housing belongs in all communities, which is why we are committed to building half of our new developments in the suburbs. We also believe in moving our housing system towards racial justice and equity.

One reason for the current housing shortage is the broken zoning process. This process creates few barriers to creating multifamily housing. Instead of following the city's comprehensive plans and development goals, which often call for more housing, it turns the process into a political issue of "who belongs in the city."

By allowing multifamily by right and creating the administrative review process, this bill compels cities to follow their plans and goals and insulates the process from the "not in my backyard," noise. Beacon also supports the bill restricting the use of public hearings, which only privileges the loudest voices over the greater good.

We also support the lowering of conditions that cities can impose on affordable housing developments. These conditions often make it too expensive to create the affordable housing a city desperately needs.

We look forward to working with all of you to ensure the passage of this important bill.

Thank You,

Benjamin Helvick Anderson  
VP of Policy and Organizing  
Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative