



March 12, 2024

## Investing in Our Future: Why We Need a Statewide Building Code in Minnesota

Dear Senator Mitchell and Members of the Senate Labor Committee,

We are writing to urge your support for a statewide building code with uniform enforcement across Minnesota. This legislation will not only **protect the safety and well-being of families**, but also **promote energy efficiency, economic fairness, and consumer protection**.

**Currently, many Minnesotans lack the crucial safeguards offered by a statewide building code in their communities.** This leaves them vulnerable to several critical issues:

- **Unsafe homes:** Without enforced building standards, homes may be constructed using faulty materials, improper techniques, or without proper inspections. This can lead to structural deficiencies, increased fire risk, and vulnerability to natural disasters.
- **Undisclosed liabilities:** Residents in these areas may be unaware that their contractors are unlicensed and therefore lack access to essential protections like warranties, insurance, and the state's Contractor Recovery Fund in case of shoddy workmanship.
- **Uneven playing field:** Unlicensed and unregulated contractors often undercut the market by offering lower prices, putting licensed professionals at a disadvantage, and jeopardizing the integrity of the construction industry.

Implementing a **statewide building code with consistent enforcement** will address these concerns and create a multitude of benefits:

- **Enhanced safety:** All Minnesotans will have the peace of mind knowing their homes meet safety standards, mitigating the risks of accidents and injuries.
- **Increased energy efficiency:** The code promotes the use of energy-saving materials and practices, leading to lower energy bills and a reduced carbon footprint for our state. Future department code processes are likely to continue improving energy efficiency standards.
- **Fair and competitive business environment:** By ensuring everyone adheres to the same regulations, licensed and ethical contractors can operate on a level playing field, fostering fair competition and a healthy construction industry.
- **Empowered consumers:** Homeowners will have the assurance that contractors adhere to established standards and have recourse through consumer protection programs in any case of wrongdoing.

Investing in a **statewide building code** is a **wise and necessary step** to safeguard the well-being of Minnesotans, promote sustainability, and foster a thriving construction industry. This legislation prioritizes the safety of our families, protects consumers, and lays the foundation for a more secure and vibrant future for our state.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this crucial issue. We urge you to stand **in favor of a statewide building code HF 4241 (Kraft) with uniform enforcement** in Minnesota. It is the right decision for our present and future generations.

Sincerely,

**Grace Keliher – Builders Association of Minnesota**

**Kim Heilmann – Arrowhead Builders Association**

**Lisa Knutson – Headwaters Builders Association**

**Rachel Hofstrand – Lake Region Builders Association**

**Phyllis Walker – Minnesota Metropolitan Contractors Association**

**Colleen Faacks – Mid-Minnesota Builders Association**

**Carie Olds – Northern Minnesota Builders Association**

**Patrick Sexton – Rochester Area Builders**

**Kurt Welker – South Central Builders Association**

**Dan Shay – Vikingland Builders Association**

**Hannah Hanning – West Central Builders Association**