



March 12, 2024

Senate File 4203 (Mitchell)

Dear Chair McEwen and Members of the Senate Labor Committee,

I am writing to express support for Senate File 4203 on behalf of insurers doing business in Minnesota.

The Insurance Federation of Minnesota has long recognized that our changing climate is the reason for the increase in the number and severity of weather events, leading to more damage than at any time in recorded history. Since 1980, Minnesota has experienced 58 weather disasters that have caused an estimated \$20-\$50 billion in damages.

These weather-related damages are one of the reasons we support the enforcement of statewide building codes found in SF4203. The adoption and enforcement of building codes has been proven to reduce the damage done by natural disasters.

According to the Insurance Institute for Building and Home Safety, more than \$600 billion in losses would be avoided if all new buildings in the United States complied with modern building codes. In addition, every dollar invested to build to code delivered a return on investment of \$11, according to a 2019 report by the National Institute for Building Safety.

Enforcing our statewide building code will help Minnesotans avoid more of the losses that disrupt their lives when disaster strikes. Small tweaks and improvements can mean the difference between a home left standing and one that is completely destroyed.

Respectfully, we ask the committee to support Senate File 4203.

Sincerely,

Aaron Cocking
President/CEO
Insurance Federation of Minnesota