

May 1, 2025

Re: SF 2229 (Port) as Amended

Dear Chair Xiong and Members of the State and Local Government Committee:

My name is Connor Carroll and I have been a renter in Minneapolis for the past 10 years, but I grew up in Rosemount, MN and work there part time, in addition to visiting family and friends there weekly. I occasionally consider moving home to be closer to these family members and friends. But, over the past decade, my rent in Minneapolis has been flat, increasing no more than 3% per year. During the same period, rents in Rosemount (and other suburbs in the southeast metro) have increased much faster, and my current Minneapolis apartment is currently cheaper than anything I have seen for these suburbs.

The suburban apartments I have looked are all big apartment complexes with a large parking garage. Also, the approval process for these buildings is long and complicated, which I think results in higher rents when the development is actually completed. Minneapolis, by contrast has removed parking minimums, relaxed many design requirements, and simplified the approval process for new homes which had previously caused a lot of delays, allowing the number of homes to quickly grow to meet demand. I think these are big reasons why I have been able to keep my living costs manageable. My apartment doesn't have a parking garage, and if it did, I am sure my rent would be at least \$200 more.

I support SD 2229 because it would unlock the same cost-cutting potential in suburban and greater Minnesota that we have seen in the Twin Cities metro area. Currently, each city has different rules for new development, which makes it hard for new homes to be built and is contributing to the housing shortage in Minnesota. Pass this bill so that people at all income levels can afford to live in the place that they choose!

Sincerely,

Connor Carroll