



Building homes, community, and hope.

1 May 2025

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

Dear Chair Xiong and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota's (Habitat Minnesota) support of SF2229 as amended. Habitat Minnesota is a statewide support organization that provides training, technical assistance, lending, grants, and other support to the 24 local Habitat affiliates in Minnesota. We are deeply invested in homeownership production and preservation, and know that the stability of a family's living situation is closely tied to their health and education. Habitat Minnesota is also part of *Yes to Homes*, a large and diverse coalition united around the common goal of creating statewide housing policy focused on meaningfully expanding development to increase the variety and supply of housing options.

Safe and stable homes are essential for strong communities, yet too many Minnesotans cannot find housing that fits their needs. Minnesota continues to face a substantial housing shortfall of over 100,000 units as housing production struggles to keep up with demand. By updating policies, we can increase access to housing, address affordability, support economic growth, and ensure families can find homes that meet their needs at every stage of life.

SF2229, as amended, provides tools that facilitate housing growth, streamline development, and reduce barriers that contribute to rising housing costs. By aligning local design standards with the State Building Code, communities can concentrate on health and safety without adding cost-driving aesthetic mandates. SF2229 also ensures right-sized parking requirements while preserving flexibility for accessibility needs. This helps reduce unnecessary land and infrastructure costs, increasing home affordability and housing choice for property owners. Finally, it simplifies the approval process for residential developments and avoids HOA requirements that can create challenges in long-term affordability and access for Minnesotans.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support for SF2229, which will advance consistent development standards across jurisdictions, encouraging more development projects and ensuring more families can afford a place to call home. Please reach out to myself or Jeru Gobeze (jeru.gobeze@habitatminnesota.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cristen Incitti".

Cristen Incitti, President & CEO
Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota
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