



May 1, 2025

**Re: SF 2229 (Port) as amended**

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

ISAIAH is a multi-racial, statewide, nonpartisan coalition of faith communities, Black barbershops, childcare centers, and other community-based constituencies working toward racial, economic, and climate justice in Minnesota.

No matter what corner of the state we live in or what we look like, all Minnesotans need and deserve decent affordable homes. Yet for too long Minnesota communities' planning decisions have been driven by those who would preserve the status quo over meeting the needs of Minnesotans. Unfortunately the status quo too often means blocking the construction of a variety of new homes, entrenching racial exclusion, and driving climate change through inefficient land use. That is why we are pleased to support this bill.

This bill would end the practice of cities setting onerous requirements such as the cosmetic finishes a home must require and the amount of parking required per home. Parking minimums limit sustainable choices that homebuyers can make, and significantly drive up the cost of new home constructions – adding tens of thousands of dollars to a new home's cost.

Perhaps most importantly this bill would help streamline the approval process for multifamily home construction, which too often is unjustly stymied by a handful of relatively well-off, propertied neighbors who wish to exclude newcomers. This will be an important albeit small step towards creating much needed homes in many communities that are rich with jobs, high quality schools and other amenities.

We urge your support.

Sincerely,

Lars Negstad