



April 30, 2025

Senator Heather Gustafson
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3103
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: City of Lino Lakes Opposition to SF 2229

On behalf of the Lino Lakes City Council, I am writing to express our strong opposition to SF 2229, as amended, that will be heard in the Senate State and Local Government Committee this Thursday.

While the amendment is narrower than the original bill, it still significantly restricts local decision-making authority related to residential development. These sweeping changes will affect cities of all sizes and remove the flexibility we need to make decisions that are responsive to our communities' needs.

Specifically:

- **Administrative Approval Requirement:** Limiting cities to two “community meetings” and prohibiting public hearings eliminates essential community input and transparency. This change restricts our ability to make informed, publicly accountable decisions.
- **Residential Design Standards:** Prohibiting cities from applying basic design standards beyond the state building code removes our ability to ensure developments fit within the character of our neighborhoods and meet community expectations for quality and aesthetics.
- **Homeowners’ Associations:** The bill could shift private infrastructure responsibilities to cities and taxpayers by prohibiting us from requiring HOAs for private common areas or services.
- **Parking Mandates:** A statewide one-size-fits-all limit of one parking space per unit, regardless of transit availability, risks overcrowded streets and strains on public infrastructure.

These mandates do not reflect the varied needs and capacities of cities across Minnesota. We ask that you oppose this amendment and support maintaining local control over development decisions that directly affect our residents and the sustainability of our communities.

Thank you for your attention to this issue and your continued service.

Sincerely,

Michael Grochala
Community Development Director

CC: Lino Lakes Mayor and City Council
Dave Pecchia, Interim City Administrator