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April 30, 2025

Senator Lindsey Port  
Room 3213, Minnesota Senate Building  
95 University Avenue W.  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re: SF 2229 Minnesota Starter Housing Act A-15 Amendment

Dear Senator Port:

I represent the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) and offer these comments on your Senate File 2229 relating to the A-15 amendment that has been circulated among interested parties.

Minnesotans dearly value their parks and trails. This is especially true in the city of Minneapolis. Over 140 years ago, the Minnesota legislature created the MPRB to create a park system in and adjacent to the city of Minneapolis. Just last year, the Minneapolis Park system was again recognized as the best park system in the country.

In 2013 the state legislature authorized the city of Minneapolis and the MPRB to jointly implement a park dedication ordinance. This “concurrent ordinance” provided that a dedication of land or a fee was required for new housing and commercial development in the city. As provided in the 2013 legislation, the ordinance exempts affordable and senior housing from the payment of fees or dedication of land.

The fees collected from and the land dedicated under the ordinance have proven to be of immeasurable benefit to Minneapolis. This is especially the case where new housing has blossomed in the warehouse district, North Loop, the riverfront, along light rail corridors, and in certain areas previously dominated by industry. All of these emerging neighborhoods desperately need the value parks and trails create. The ordinance has allowed the MPRB to expend well over \$20 million to improve parks and trails of local and regional significance through payment of fees or the dedication of land that has occurred where there has been new development in Minneapolis.

There is a provision in the A-15 amendment which on its face would appear to prohibit the city of Minneapolis and the MPRB from requiring park dedication fees or land dedications under the concurrent ordinance.

We respectfully ask that the language found in the A-15 Amendment at Page 4, Lines 27- 30 either be removed or that additional language be added to clarify that the park dedication fees or land dedication that currently exist under the ordinance can continue. A copy of the proposed modified language is attached to this letter.

I look forward to testifying on this topic at tomorrow's Senate State and Local Government Committee. I would be happy to discuss these concerns with you at any time.

Very truly yours,



Brian F Rice

Cc: Senator Tou Xiong, Chair of State and Local Government Committee  
Senator Scott Dibble  
Senator Bobby Joe Champion  
Senator Melissa Wicklund  
Senator Zayneb Mohamed  
Senator Omar Fateh  
Senator Doron Clark  
Minneapolis Park Board Commissioners  
MPRB Superintendent Al Bangoura  
Pamela Gokemeijer  
Attachment

Minnesota Starter Homes SF 2229 A-15

Municipal park dedication fees issue

\_\_\_\_\_ moves to amend the A-15 amendment as follows:

Page 4, line 30 before the period insert:

“; nothing in this subparagraph relieves an applicant from otherwise satisfying a municipal requirement or ordinance that imposes exactions, dedications or fees”