

May 1, 2025

Re: SF 2229 (Port) as Amended

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

My name is Sam Benson, and I am writing today in support of SF 2229. This bill takes important steps to ensure that more housing can be built in our state to meet the large shortage of homes that currently exists. By limiting onerous aesthetic mandates and parking minimums, lawmakers can make it easier to build housing of all types across our state. This will make it possible for more people to afford to call our great state home.

One reason I support this bill is that I have seen how similar reforms, at the local level, have benefited renters, such as myself, in my neighborhood. I live in southeast Minneapolis, near the University of Minnesota campus. In recent years, as the city of Minneapolis has relaxed parking minimums and encouraged housing development along the green line, numerous multi-family housing developments have gone up. This has helped to allow many new people and businesses to move into the area and has helped to keep rents manageable, even as the student population has grown. My partner and I recently resigned our lease for next year, and our rent went up less than 2%, even as rents in other parts of the country continue to rise significantly.

Not every neighborhood should look like mine, but the policy changes that have benefited my neighborhood can also benefit other neighborhoods, even at a smaller scale. By streamlining regulations and limiting excessive requirements, Minnesota can pave the way for a more affordable future for our state.

I strongly encourage a yes vote on SF2229 as amended.

-Sam Benson  
Minneapolis