

January 20, 2025

Dear Members of the Senate Housing and Homelessness Prevention Committee,

I had the privilege of working closely with Senator Kari Dziedzic for many years on housing issues, as the Legislative Director for Minnesota Housing and the Intergovernmental Relations Director for the City of Minneapolis.

As the minority lead on the Senate Agriculture and Housing Committee, Senator Dziedzic was diligent and studious in understanding the state's role in affordable housing. No one worked harder to advance initiatives that supported both homeownership and affordable rental housing. When she became the Senator Majority Leader, she ensured that the Housing Committee had a record budget target, investing historic amounts in downpayment assistance, new construction, and preservation of affordable rental housing.

Senator Dziedzic kept all of us on our toes by asking the right questions - oftentimes the hard questions – and ensuring she had the information she needed to be effective. She knew every detail and was thoughtful about each decision she made. Senator Dziedzic made us all better at the important work that takes place in the Minnesota Legislature.

In addition to working with Senator Dziedzic at the Capitol, I was also her constituent. My neighbors and I were lucky to be represented by the very best of the Senate. Senator Dziedzic was thorough, compassionate, kind, and always had her constituents in mind. She was a fierce advocate for our district, especially for those who most needed help from their government.

I am grateful to have known and worked with Senator Dziedzic for so many years. Her legacy will live on through the incredible work she has done for the City of Minneapolis and the State of Minnesota.

Thank you for the opportunity to honor Senator Dziedzic in this way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katie Topinka', with a stylized, flowing script.

Katie Topinka