



February 11, 2025

Re: SF0203 (Port) & SF0982 (Baldon)

Dear Chair Port, Lead Lucero, and Members of the Senate Housing and Homelessness Prevention Committee,

On behalf of the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (“CGMC”), an organization of more than 100 cities located throughout the state outside the 7-county metropolitan area, and the Greater Minnesota Partnership (“GMNP”), an organization focused on expanding economic prosperity in Greater Minnesota, we wanted to share our support for two bills that are scheduled to be heard in the Committee, SF0203 (Port) and SF0982(Baldon). As we have worked with communities across Greater Minnesota to identify and address challenges, they have consistently shared that there is a significant demand for more housing of all types. Housing provides a foundation for stability, well-being, and opportunity for Minnesotans, impacting everything from health and education to economic mobility. A secure, affordable home allows individuals and families to thrive, access better jobs, and contribute positively to their communities. Affordable housing also helps communities attract and retain key businesses.

Together, SF0203 (Port) and SF0982 (Baldon) would help to address the primary housing issue in Greater Minnesota, which is that the cost to construct a unit of housing is more expensive than our communities can support in rent or mortgages. Almost all of our cities are working diligently to support and attract the development of any new housing in their community, and these two bills would provide some of the needed state support for affordable housing in their communities.

We welcome the chance to work with you to continue to address housing challenges in Greater Minnesota and thank you for this opportunity to weigh in on two key bills before the Committee.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Wefel
Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities

Darielle Dannen
Greater Minnesota Partnership