



March 11, 2025

Subject: Urgent Support for Senate File 2229: The Building Minnesota Starter Home Act - Addressing Minnesota's Critical Housing Shortage

Chair Port and Esteemed Members of the Senate Housing and Homelessness Committee,

The Builders Association of Minnesota (BAM) endorses Senate File 2229, a strategic and forward-thinking legislative initiative designed to alleviate Minnesota's escalating housing crisis. This legislation offers a crucial, standardized framework for expanding housing options on single-family lots, addressing the core challenge of affordability and availability.

Minnesota's housing shortage has reached a critical juncture, demanding immediate and decisive action. SF 2229 presents a solution by establishing a minimum uniform standard, coupled with essential safeguards, to enable the development of additional housing units. This approach empowers prospective homeowners with accessible entry points into the market, facilitating potential income diversification and fostering adaptable, multigenerational living arrangements. By providing builders and developers with the necessary flexibility, SF2229 enables tailored solutions that effectively meet the diverse needs of families and communities across the state.

While BAM deeply values the contributions of our local government officials, the severity of the current housing deficit necessitates a statewide, coordinated response. We commend Chair Port for her visionary leadership in introducing this pivotal legislation.

For half a century, the Builders Association of Minnesota has served as the authoritative voice for the residential construction industry statewide. Our extensive membership, comprising home builders, remodelers, developers, and a robust network of allied professionals, including subcontractors, suppliers, realtors, manufacturers, and financial institutions, underscores our comprehensive understanding of the housing market.

We urge the committee to vote favorably on Senate File 2229.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Grace Keliher Executive Vice President Builders Association of Minnesota

