

March 11, 2025

Chair Lindsey Port
Senate Housing and Homelessness Prevention—Room 1150
Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Avenue West
Saint Paul, Minnesota, 55103

Chair Port and members of the Senate Housing and Homelessness Prevention Committee:

The Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans (the Council) submits this letter in support of S.F. 2229, offered by Senator Port, to increase the supply of starter homes in Minnesota.

The Council is charged by the Legislature with the statutory duty of advocating on behalf of Minnesota's Asian and Pacific Islander (API) communities, acting as the liaison between state government and Minnesota's API communities and serving as an advisory body to the Legislature and the Governor. It is in this capacity that we express our support for S.F. 2229.

In the Council's 2024 Community Priorities Survey, Home Ownership was identified as among the top priority issues for Asian Pacific Minnesotans through hundreds of responses gathered from across Minnesota's API communities. Homeownership is the foundation of financial security and building generational wealth for many Minnesotans, yet remains challenging to achieve for first-generation homebuyers, including among Minnesota's refugee-experienced populations.

Asian Pacific Minnesotans currently have a lower rate of homeownership than the population of the state as a whole, particularly for those from the Southeast Asian community. Improving access to stable housing, including through homeownership, will benefit Asian Pacific Minnesotan families, their communities, and employers. The lack of availability and cost of purchasing a first home are both commonly cited barriers to homeownership by Asian Pacific Minnesotans. By promoting an increase in the housing supply, particularly for starter homes, S.F. 2229 will help make housing both more available and more affordable for Minnesotans, including Asian Pacific Minnesotans.

We thank the Committee for its consideration of this bill and the opportunity to express the Council's view. We urge the Committee to support to S.F. 2229.

Sincerely,



Andrew Morris
Legislative and Public Affairs Liaison
Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans