



Building homes, community, and hope.

11 March 2025

Re: SF2229 MN Starter Home Act and SF 2286 Transforming Downtowns

To: Chair Port and Members of the Housing & Homelessness Prevention Committee

Dear Chair Port, Vice Chair Boldon and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota's (Habitat Minnesota) support of SF2229 and SF2286. Habitat Minnesota is a statewide support organization to the 24 local Habitat affiliates, working in 59 counties across the state. We are deeply invested in homeownership production and preservation and know that the stability of a family's living situation is closely tied to their wealth, health, and education.

Habitat Minnesota is part of *Yes to Homes*, a large and diverse coalition united around the common goal of creating statewide housing policy focused on meaningfully expanding development to increase the variety and supply of housing options.

Safe and stable homes are essential for strong communities, yet too many Minnesotans struggle to find housing that fits their needs. After decades of underproduction, Minnesota now has a growing shortage of over 100,000 units. By updating zoning policies and expanding the types of homes that can be built, we can increase access to affordable homeownership, address affordability, support economic growth, and ensure families can find homes that meet their needs at every stage of life. Habitat Minnesota supports the following legislation that advances these goals:

- ❖ **SF2229 MN Starter Home Act** would increase affordable home options by allowing smaller lots, duplexes, ADUS, and townhomes in residential zones. The bill also establishes a process for administrative approvals and reduces parking restrictions.
- ❖ **SF 2286 Transforming Downtowns Act** permits condos, apartments, and mixed-use developments in commercial zones through administrative approval, following a set timeframe. Allowing more homes near jobs will help revitalize our downtowns while enabling more people to live close to jobs.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support SF2229 and SF2286 which will reduce barriers to building more housing and ensure more families can afford a place to call home. Please reach out to myself or Jeru Gobeze (jeru.gobeze@habitatminnesota.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cristen Incitti". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Cristen" and last name "Incitti" clearly distinguishable.

Cristen Incitti, President & CEO
Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota
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