

Senate Housing and Homelessness
Prevention Committee
3213 Minnesota Senate Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155



Dear Chair Port and Members of the Committee,

March 12, 2025

The Minnesota Consortium of Community Developers (MCCD) is an association of nonprofit community development organizations and Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) committed to expanding the wealth and resources of communities through housing opportunities and economic development initiatives. MCCD's mission to build strong and stable communities can only be achieved by addressing the harms and inequities that have shaped housing and economic development policies at every level of government. These policies have prevented Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) and other communities from achieving housing stability, accessing capital, and building generational wealth.

MCCD is writing in support of Senate File 2231 and Senate File 1268 to increase Minnesota's supply of affordable housing options.

Minnesota is experiencing a severe housing shortage. We need to build more than 100,000 units of housing to meet demand, and we are nowhere near meeting this goal. This shortage is contributing to increasing costs for renters and homeowners and it is making it more difficult for individuals and families to achieve long-term housing stability. While there isn't one single solution to solve our state's housing crisis, there is a relatively simple way to solve our housing shortage: build more housing. We can do this by supporting bills like SF 2231 and SF 1268, and by saying Yes to Homes.

- **SF 2231 – Increased Housing Options Act:** Allows for a wider variety of housing options, including townhomes and small apartments, in existing communities in our state. This bill would create predictable regulations that allow more homes to be built in existing neighborhoods that are already close to family and economic corridors.
- **SF 1268 – People Over Parking Act:** Allows for more housing to be built by prohibiting a minimum parking mandate for residential, commercial, or industrial properties. Parking minimums require land that could provide more homes and more businesses. By removing these minimums, we can ensure that we are able to build the amount of housing that is actually needed in local municipalities.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our request to support new housing development. Please reach out to Kelly Law, Senior Policy and Field Building Advisor at MCCD, 612-865-3170 or klaw@mccdmn.org, should you need any further information now or throughout the legislative session.

Sincerely,

Elena Gaarder

Elena Gaarder
Chief Executive Officer