

Cindy Winters
120 Swiss St.
Mankato, MN 56001

Minnesota Senate Housing and Homelessness Prevention Comm.
Attn: Courtney Schaff, Committee Administrator
1150 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

March 8, 2025

Dear Senators,

Subject: Written testimony in support of SF 1268

As the chair of the advocacy committee for the Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota, please accept this written testimony in support of S.F. 1268. As the statewide non-profit organization providing education and advocacy for all forms of active transportation and transit, multiple studies support our belief that parking minimums have resulted in environments that have stymied the expansion of small local businesses, affordable housing, and new parks, as well as active transportation. Land use directly impacts whether people are able to safely walk or bicycle for transportation.

Eliminating parking minimums puts the decision making process in the hands of the local developers and/or small business owners that understand the needs of their clients. Minimum requirements have prevented some small businesses from moving forward with plans to open because they can't afford to purchase an additional lot to meet the parking requirements and maintain the parking surface. Minimum parking requirements drive up the cost of affordable or low income multi-unit housing due to having to provide parking for tenants that may not own a vehicle or choose not to drive. This additional cost is passed onto the tenants through increased rents reducing their overall purchasing power and access to housing they can afford.

Eliminating parking minimums will not eliminate parking needs or prevent off street parking from being provided. It will however, help to eliminate the large expanse of surface parking lots and lessen the reinforcement of a car dependent community. Creating additional opportunities for walking and bicycling in communities of all sizes. This bill puts the decision making power where it belongs and is a win for communities and residents across the state.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Winters, Chair
BikeMN Advocacy Committee

