

March 12, 2025

Attn: Housing and Homelessness Prevention Committee

I'm Nas Nourkadi from Move Minnesota Action, I am our State Policy Lead. I am in support of SF1268.

In front of us is an incredible affordability measure that can save families money and help communities bring down housing costs, while also moving Minnesota closer to our climate goals.

Housing costs are too high in many of our communities in Minnesota. Rent is going up—money is tight for many of our neighbors around the state. Minimum parking requirements contribute to those high housing costs unnecessarily. We shouldn't be increasing rent with outdated measures like parking minimums that drive up building costs and people's cost of living, taking valuable space and resources that could be used for more housing and other beneficial uses. It's not fair. There is an abundance of research to suggest that ending minimum parking requirements is an effective method for increasing the housing supply.

But you don't really need research to know that developers should not have to build a parking spot for every tenant if it doesn't fit the needs of the area. That's common-sense. And it's a common-sense approach that leads to other profound reasons to support this measure.

Transportation is our state's largest source of climate pollution—and cars and other personal vehicles are responsible for the majority of these emissions. You can do something about that today. Minimum parking requirements encourage more driving through induced demand, increasing our average vehicle miles traveled and substantially increasing harmful climate pollution in the process. Minnesota's Climate Action Framework set targets of a 20% decrease in vehicle miles traveled per capita by 2050 and net-zero emissions by 2050. If we'd like to be even remotely serious about meeting our climate goals, let's move this legislation forward.

At Move Minnesota Action we believe that “every family deserves access to jobs, food, housing, health care, clean air, and education.” By ending minimum parking requirements and increasing the amount of housing people can actually afford, especially around denser metropolitan areas, we are allowing Minnesotans to live closer to public transit, to

employment opportunities, to schools, to quality health care, and to the other essentials our communities have to offer.

In addition to the high cost of housing, the average annual car ownership cost for a Minnesotan is now around \$12,000. Brand new car costs are increasing, so I don't think that number is going down anytime soon. It's imperative that our communities can provide choices for our neighbors who don't want to be forced to own one or more cars or to pay for a parking spot they didn't ask for, who want to easily walk to the store or ride public transit to work, and who want an affordable rent.

Eliminating parking minimums will save people money, improve our environment, and make our communities more connected. Let's make this common-sense policy change for our neighbors, our savings, and our climate. Please vote in favor of this legislation.

Thank you,

Nasir

Nas Nourkadi

Policy and Community Specialist