



Mr. Chair,

On behalf of the Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council, we wanted to acknowledge the importance of the Heights Projects and specifically the housing portion of this development. We strongly support this project which is going to put hundreds of our trades men and women to work. The Heights is a 112-acre redevelopment project positioned to revitalize a polluted, abandoned golf course located at the corner of Larpenteur Avenue and McKnight Road in Saint Paul.

The Saint Paul Port Authority is excited to bring much needed jobs and affordable housing options to this neighborhood, which has historically been impacted by disinvestment. The Building Trades are partnering with the St. Paul Port, Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity, JO Companies (BIPOC owned), and Sherman Associates to develop 1,000 new homes that will be a unique mix of housing for Saint Paul's East Side multicultural community.

The Heights Affordable Housing Project is a public, private, and non-profit response to the legislature's historic call for affordable housing projects to address our nation's housing shortage. The project will create 1,000 homes - making it the largest affordable housing project in Minnesota's history.

The goal is to bring in a mix of high, medium, and low-density housing options for *purchase* or *rent*. Walkability, community connectivity, adjacent jobs and affordable housing options are the top priorities.

The Heights development is already underway with individual home construction beginning in 2024. Multi-family buildings are scheduled to break ground in 2025 and funds from the state request can be deployed **immediately** to bring long-sought relief to the affordable housing crisis.

We appreciate your consideration for this important project and we are happy to lend our full support to the funding request.

Tom Dicklich

Executive Director, Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council