



# Fridley Civic Campus

Dear Chair Xiong,

The City of Fridley respectfully asks that the State and Local Government Committee oppose [HF 1987/SF 2229](#) ("Minnesota Starter Home Act"), [HF 2140/ SF 2231](#) ("More Homes Right Places Act"), and [HF 2018/ SF 2286](#) ("Transforming Main Street Act").

The City of Fridley does recognize that there is a housing shortage across the state and across the spectrum of housing type and affordability. Each community, however, has its own unique housing needs. Along with the state, the cities play a large role in tackling housing challenges with locally developed solutions.

In Fridley we have continually strived to make policy and funding commitments to support both affordable and market rate development. Despite being a fully developed city, with a high percentage of naturally affordable single-family housing stock, our efforts include:

- **Loans & Grants:** Since May of 2023, the City of Fridley has issued \$2.2 million in home improvement and first-time home buyer loans. The City has issued an additional \$147,000 in home improvement grants. These low interest loans and grants allow home buyers to update, improve and preserve Fridley's affordable housing stock.
- **Adoption of Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Ordinance:** In 2022 the city adopted an ordinance to allow accessory dwelling units in our residential neighborhoods. Since adoption, our experience is that these units are difficult to finance and construct in our suburban context.
- **Redevelopment Efforts:** Fridley has a long history of integrating community input into redevelopment projects, ensuring that residents needs are met. Recent projects include infill housing and townhomes. A near future project will consist of 25-30 single family starter homes.

We are most concerned that the proposed legislation will limit local decision-making authority on residential development by imposing a "one size fits all" framework on cities, regardless of our unique needs and circumstances. The bills would eliminate resident input before our council or planning and zoning commission on residential development, and strip local planning and zoning standards, all without guaranteeing more affordable housing or increased development.

We ask you to oppose these bills due to their rigid approach, prescriptive mandates, and lack of flexibility. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues on an alternate approach that is more, practical, involves public input, and includes local decision-making so Fridley can continue to meet its housing needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to Mayor Dave Ostwald, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Mayor Dave Ostwald