



Re: Support for HF2148, Locally controlled housing

March 24, 2025

Dear Co-Chair Howard, Co-Chair Igo and Members of the Housing Committee:

ISAIAH is a multi-racial, state-wide, nonpartisan coalition of faith communities, Black barbershops, childcare centers, and other community based constituencies. Our mission is to enable people to organize for racial, social and economic justice, and build a democracy that respects every person's dignity and a caring economy where everyone can thrive.

No matter what we look like, how old we are or where we live, all Minnesotans deserve decent place to call home. However all across the state we hear stories of people struggling to find housing options that meet their needs. While reforming zoning and land use policies are an essential part of the equation, we also think it is important to lift up and accelerate successful solutions that are producing more housing options.

Counties around the country, including Olmsted and Washington Counties right here in Minnesota have been responding to the real needs of their communities by developing mixed-income multifamily housing options. These developments serve the diverse needs of families and individuals by producing and maintaining housing that does not require heavy amounts of ongoing public subsidy. We think it would be wise for the state to support and elevate these innovative solutions, and this bill would be a great step in the right direction.

We thank Rep. Agbaje and the co-authors for their leadership and urge your support for this bill.

Sincerely,

Lars Negstad

Policy Director