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April 9, 2024

Re: H.F. 4010, 93rd Leg. (Minn. 2024) (1st Engrossment).

To Whom it May Concern:

I support the passage of H.F. 4010, 93rd Leg. (Minn. 2024) (1st Engrossment).

I urge you to pass HF 4010/ SF 3980 to help facilitate greater residential density and more rental housing throughout Minnesota. Increasing residential density is critical to reduce the number of vehicle miles traveled and necessary to make regional transit effective. If this bill were combined with an effort to place a larger share of government subsidized affordable housing in more affluent communities -- and a smaller share in already segregated neighborhoods in the central cities and the older suburbs -- it would help reduce residential and educational segregation, which is growing here faster than anywhere in the United States. My research over the past 30 years has demonstrated that segregation in our communities and schools produces worse outcomes for children, for communities, and for our economy.

One key aspect of HF 4010/ SF 3980 is to remove opportunities that allow NIMBY's to weigh in on "who" gets to live in their communities. Allowing multifamily "as of right" in commercial zones, without conditional use permit requirements, would help facilitate more housing, greater density, and --- if combined with efforts to place a larger share of government subsidized affordable housing in affluent communities – reduce the explosive growth of segregated schools and neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

Myron Orfield

Earl R. Larson Professor of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and Director of the Institute on Metropolitan Opportunity