

March 20, 2023

Dear Members of the House Commerce Committee,

The American Institute of Architects Minnesota, which represents more than 2,300 architecture and design professionals throughout the state, wishes to express its support for the Strengthening Minnesota Homes provisions in the Department of Commerce budget proposal.

The impacts of a warming climate are felt in Minnesota throughout the year, every year. Tornadoes, high wind events, flooding, and winter storms are increasing in frequency and intensity. Architects are committed to designing homes that are both sustainable and resilient, embracing many elements of resilient design, from strategic site placement of a home to the materials and techniques used in building.

While there are many technologies and design techniques available that can help Minnesota homes withstand more extreme weather, many of the materials needed still come at a premium price for homeowners. We also know that when a home is better designed and built using these technologies, the number of insurance claims from hail, wind, and other weather-related damage goes down.

Minnesotans can wait no longer to incorporate technologies that improve their homes' resilience; the impacts of climate change are already here. The benefits of incentivizing homeowners to implement this technology will extend beyond their own insurance premium savings. Reducing the risk of weather and climate-related insurance claims benefits will result in costs savings for insurance companies and Minnesota property owners and will benefit Minnesota's built environment overall.

We urge you to support this proposal to advance the use of these technologies throughout our state.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Mary-Margaret Zindren, CAE
Executive Vice President, AIA Minnesota