

May 9, 2022

Members of the Omnibus Agriculture, Housing, and Broadband Finance and Policy Bill Conference Committee,

The City of Minneapolis appreciates the opportunity to comment on HF4366 as you and your colleagues decide on an agreed-upon bill.

The City is thankful to both chambers for the vast investments in the full spectrum of affordable housing needs and the investments in broad for underserved communities. While there are differences, comparably, we hope you find agreement on investment opportunities statewide and in the City of Minneapolis.

We write again to share grave concerns about the rent control preemption on the Senate's side of the bill in Art. 6, Sec. 29. This section repeals the authority of local government to enact rent stabilization policies based on its unique needs. In November 2021, more than 53.1% of voters approved a ballot initiative to have the City develop and thoughtful and data-driven proposal. The City is approaching this work deliberatively and with care and with the reality that Minneapolis is a majority renter City, has 91,643 renter households (53%), and almost half – 42,155 are housing cost-burdened and pay more than 30 percent of income for rent.

Community members expended great effort securing enough signatures to place the referendum on the ballot. Stripping away the rights of voters and local elected officials to make local decisions responsive to their needs is not a democratic precedent to take.

The City of Minneapolis is committed to increasing affordable housing options and housing stability for our residents, as evident in our 2040 Plan. To achieve our affordable housing goals, we continually develop, evaluate, and implement a wide range of policies and initiatives. This bill tampers with the local authority afforded to local elected officials to create specific and equitable solutions responsive to local community needs.

We hope you will reconsider including this provision in the final bill.

Sincerely,



Fatima Moore  
Director, Intergovernmental Relations  
City of Minneapolis