



May 8, 2025

Chairs Igo, Port, and Members of the Housing Conference Committee on SF 2298,

Americans for Prosperity is the nation's—and the state's—premier grassroots organization. We believe that we all need freedom and opportunity to realize our unique versions of the American Dream and reach our full potential. We talk to Minnesotans every day; we knock on thousands of doors a week in your districts. One of the things we consistently hear is frustration at the ever-increasing barriers to economic mobility, of which having a stable, affordable place to call home is a vital component.

While we appreciate the attempts at compromise on the housing bills, the legislation falls short of the real reform needed to ease the housing crisis that is self-inflicted by overly zealous government mandates. Housing in Minnesota has become prohibitively expensive due to a patchwork of arbitrary regulations, and the results are stifled development, higher costs, and limited opportunity and innovation in the housing market.

This crisis is not a natural fluke or hiccup in the free market—it is a product of government overreach. Minnesota needs over 100,000 homes to meet current demand. The fact that the average age of a first-time homebuyer is 38 years old should be unacceptable to everyone. Yet we continue to see resistance to change, spreading fear and misinformation to protect and preserve the status quo.

The status quo is not working.

We encourage you to include the Minnesota Starter Home Act, which would allow single-family homes, duplexes, and accessory dwelling units (ADUs) on any residential lot, and townhomes on vacant or newly platted lots. Allow a greater variety of homes in more places. Repeal minimum parking mandates. Prohibit rent control. These reforms do not cost the state a penny and won't require cities to approve development without proper infrastructure. Claims to the contrary are misleading.

By restoring property rights and reducing regulatory barriers, Minnesotans can build, rent, or live in homes that meet their needs. ADUs, for instance, can provide space for family, supplemental income, or affordable rentals—flexibility Minnesotans deserve.

This crisis can't be subsidized away. The solution is to unleash the market. Remove barriers, respect property rights, and stop picking winners and losers. These reforms empower individuals and make housing more accessible.

I am heartened to hear lawmakers realize what we have long stated: top-down mandates make innovation and the free market dysfunctional. But there is also great disappointment in seeing what should be a huge bipartisan win—not just for you as legislators but for Minnesotans—fall victim to politics.

We urge you to act boldly. Will your constituents hear that you fought for them—or protected a broken system?

Sincerely,

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