



**BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
RED RIVER VALLEY**

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Formerly  
Home Builders Association  
of Fargo-Moorhead

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March 9, 2026

Re: Support for H.F. 3545 as Amended

Dear Chair Baker and members of the Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance and Policy Committee,

On behalf of the Building Industry Association of the Red River Valley and our nearly 700 member companies, we express support for the amended version of H.F. 3545. The amendment would require adoption of each new residential IECC using the efficiency standards of the model code, along with a report comparing the model code's energy efficiency and new home performance to the 2006 IECC. While we would also support a full repeal of the 2038 mandate, we understand that this amendment provides flexibility.

According to a report by the Housing Affordability Institute (using analysis conducted by ARCXIS) the 2038 mandate would result in substantial cost increases when applied with today's dollars and current technology. In our region's climate zone (Zone 7), the mandate would add an estimated \$25,773 to the cost of a slab-on-grade home and \$44,171 to a two-story home, not including additional engineering, administrative or permitting costs.

The National Association of Home Builders estimates that in the Fargo-Moorhead region, every \$1,000 increase in the price of a home prices out 161 households. For Minnesota as a whole, that number rises to 3,111 households. When you apply those numbers to the costs mentioned, the result is thousands of Minnesota and Fargo-Moorhead families losing access to homeownership. At a time when housing affordability is already strained, these added costs further deepen the challenge and limit housing supply. As a border community, we see daily how cost differences influence where families and businesses choose to build and operate. Many of our members have reduced the number of homes built or no longer construct homes in Minnesota because regulatory constraints and cost increases make it difficult to compete with projects in North Dakota.

Minnesota is already a leader in energy efficiency, especially when compared to neighboring states. With affordability as a key priority this session, we urge you to consider the impact that additional costs have on the access to homeownership. We believe it is possible to protect affordability and maintain regional competitiveness while supporting energy-efficient construction practices. This bill as amended is a good starting point.

Thank you for your consideration. We respectfully encourage your support for H.F. 3545 as amended.

Sincerely,

Shannon Roers, President

Bryce Johnson, CEO