



March 4, 2021

**Re: Preemption of city authority to ensure health, safety, and welfare and encourage energy efficiency in residential buildings.**

Chair Draheim and Members of the Senate Housing Finance and Policy Committee:

The League of Minnesota Cities respectfully request that members oppose legislative proposals that could restrict the state's ability to update and improve standards in a timely and efficient manner using existing processes or proposals that could limit a city's ability to effectively ensure building code compliance and encourage energy efficiency in residential buildings.

SF 910 would prohibit any change in energy code unless the increased cost to residential construction is offset within five years by the savings resulting from the change. As cities seek to bolster sustainable development and conservation, this language could limit progress in addressing energy efficiencies in residential development that result in savings for homeowners and renters.

The bill also prohibits a city from requiring more than one inspection for a "particular area of building competency" when approval has been made by a certified building official, building official-limited, or construction code inspector. There are two problems with this. First, one area often requires multiple inspections (i.e., inspection when plumbing is roughed in vs. final inspection when everything is done). Second, the bill would also allow for an inspector who works for a builder to inspect work done by that inspector's colleagues, but at the same time prohibiting a city from doing an (while additional) independent inspection.

Cities are responsible for the health, safety, and welfare of its residents and must be able to ensure that residential development is built safe and built to code. This language could tie the city's hands in requiring the addressing of errors or violations in plan review and onsite inspections.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel Lightfoot". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and "L".

Daniel Lightfoot  
Intergovernmental Relations Representative  
League of Minnesota Cities