Minneapolis
City of Lakes

Intergovernmental Relations
350 S. Fifth St. – Room 301M
Minneapolis, MN 55415
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March 10, 2022

Senator Rich Draheim and Members
Chair of the Committee on Housing Finance and Policy

Re: SF 3414 – Draheim: Rent control prohibition

Dear Chair Draheim and Members,

The City of Minneapolis appreciates the opportunity to comment on SF 3414 and respectfully opposes this bill.

Last week, the City's Community Planning and Economic Development department staff testified to this committee on the voter-approved ballot initiative from the 2021 November election, which 53.21% of voters approved. Community members expended great effort securing enough signatures to place the referendum on the ballot. Stripping away the ability of community members and local elected officials who are close to the issues impacting their communities is a misstep.

Staff shared data related to housing affordability in Minneapolis during the hearing last week; these statistics bear repeating.

- Minneapolis is a majority renter City;
- There are 91,643 renter households (53%) in Minneapolis;
- Almost half – 42,155 are housing cost-burdened and pay more than 30 percent of income for rent.

The City of Minneapolis is committed to increasing affordable housing options and housing stability for our renters. 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 develop specific and equitable solutions responsive to local community needs.

We strongly oppose the erosion of local control central to this bill and ask that local governments, who are closely connected to their communities and understand the dynamic needs of their communities and citizenry, maintain their local authority.

Sincerely,

Fatima Moore

Fatima Moore
Director, Intergovernmental Relations
City of Minneapolis