



The Association of Minnesota Building Officials

"Safe Homes – Resilient Communities"



Honorable Minnesota Representatives
Labor & Industry Policy Committee
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

March 17, 2020

RE: Concerns with House File 1085

Honorable Committee Members,

The Association of MN Building Officials (AMBO) opposes HF1085 for the following reasons:

- **HF1085 proposes a regressive fee structure. It will have a negative impact on lower priced / less complicated homes.**
 - To create a reasonable fee-for-service permit under HF1085, a median price will need to be chosen for the square footage permitting. That means that a lower priced/less complicated 2000sqft. home could have a higher priced permit fee, while a more complicated/expensive home of the same size may have a lower priced permit (despite increased review & inspection needed).
- **HF1085 will require extensive permitting tables.**
 - Each municipality will need to develop a complex and extensive fee table to cover all the various permits based on artificial measurements for square footage.
- **HF1085 fails to address the possible complexity or the simplicity of a remodel.**
 - Most permits pulled are for remodels. A square foot fee does not capture the amount of work for a remodel, which typically relates to the complexity of the inspection process & fee for service.

Thank you for considering the negative impacts this bill could have on affordable housing, municipal administration and the fee for service model.

Jerry Backlund
President, AMBO