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TO: Saint Paul City Council

RE: Letter of support for *Saint Paul Sustainable Building Policy 2017 Update*

Dear Council Members

I am writing to express my strong support for the *Saint Paul Sustainable Building Policy 2017 Update*. Since 2009, the program has been a great success and resulted in significant reductions in energy use, operating costs, and greenhouse gas emissions for almost 50 projects in Saint Paul. It has provided other environmental and health benefits as well. It is time for some necessary updates to the policy including resilience measures, electric vehicle charging, on-site renewable energy generation, and monitoring of water during operations.

As Director of the Center for Sustainable Building Research (CSBR) at the University of Minnesota through 2014, I participated in the development of the original *Saint Paul Sustainable Building Policy* and CSBR continues to provide technical assistance and monitoring of the program to this day. A very unique aspect of the policy is the way it leverages existing programs such as LEED, B3 and Green Communities to allow project teams multiple paths to document sustainable building measures. Then the Saint Paul Overlay ensures compliance with minimum thresholds in several key areas of performance.

The *Saint Paul Sustainable Building Policy* is a model for other communities in Minnesota and elsewhere in the nation. I urge you to support the *Saint Paul Sustainable Building Policy 2017 Update*. This policy is an important component of making Saint Paul a leader and creating a sustainable, resilient and healthy city.

Sincerely



John Carmody
Senior Fellow, Minnesota Design Center
Former Director, Center for Sustainable Building Research
University of Minnesota