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March 13, 2020

St. Paul City Council Members
15 Kellogg Blvd. West 310 City Hall
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Subject: West Side Equitable Development Scorecard

Dear Council Members,

CTUL is pleased to write this letter in support of the West Side Equitable Development Scorecard as a model tool in deciding “Who Benefits” when development comes into a neighborhood. We believe an integral part of Equitable Development is related to working conditions in construction and access to truly affordable, equitable housing.

Far too often, large developers and finance behind those developer’s pit workers’ rights against housing rights, claiming that it is not possible to build truly affordable housing at the same time as ensure basic dignity for the workers building the housing. This is a false division- a handful of people are getting extremely rich from the exploitation of workers on one end of the chain and renters at the other end of the chain.

Labor exploitation in housing development as well as lack of affordable housing have a negative impact on your constituents and on the broader community. We are writing you as a partner organization in the work for a just and equitable Twin Cities and State. We see the value in the “Equitable Development Scorecard”, as one way in which Community and Cities can hold developers accountable to Equitable Development practices benefiting workers, renters, and developers.

We support and encourage the adoption of the West Side Equitable Development Scorecard as an amendment to the West Side 10-year plan, and the 2040 St. Paul Comprehensive plan.

Sincerely,

Veronica Mendez Moore
Co-Director CTUL (Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en Lucha)