

To Whom it May Concern,

RE: Letter of Recommendation for Rick Straus

We are very pleased and willing to recommend Rick Straus as a builder. Rick helped us complete our dream of building a retirement home in northern Minnesota. From beginning to end he was a pleasure to work with and we now hold him as a friend as well.

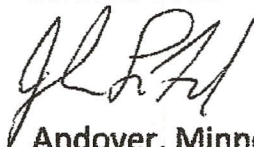
Rick's attention to detail is a one of his many assets. His experience and knowledge of buildings and building methods is another. And organization is a forte. From his initial review of our plans and his recommendations for improvements and clarifications to his last sweep through the house, he always had our best interests at heart and tried to make everything as perfect as possible. And he stayed within our budget.

He was patient though persistent through the process including navigating through and trying to make up for delays caused by the construction loan process, weather and various other unforeseen issues. He coordinated the entire process from clearing the lot through building the house to final grading. He never lost sight of what the remaining tasks to be completed were. And nothing was too small to discuss with Rick.

The associates he had working for him were all very competent and Rick took the time to supervise each group and the phase of the building they were responsible for. He is very skilled at coordinating numerous activities so that more than one phase of construction can be ongoing at the same time.

We feel very fortunate to have been introduced to Rick as our builder and would be more than happy to talk with anyone interested in having Rick build their home or structure for them.

John La Fond



Andover, Minnesota

Karen La Fond



8/12/09