

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 23, 2021

The Honorable Brian Schatz
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, Housing, and Urban
Development, and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, Housing, and Urban
Development, and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Schatz and Ranking Member Collins:

As you consider the Fiscal Year 2022 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) Appropriations Act, we write to ask that you provide at least \$185 million for the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation, commonly known as NeighborWorks America. With the nation's affordable housing crisis continuing to worsen, coupled with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, now is the time to increase our investment in ensuring that Americans have access to reasonably-priced, quality housing options.

As a Congressionally-chartered, national nonprofit, NeighborWorks helps create opportunities for Americans to live in affordable and safe homes by providing community development organizations in all fifty states with financial resources and counseling services. In 2020, NeighborWorks created and maintained 43,800 jobs, repaired 76,200 homes, and empowered 23,400 new homeowners. That same year, NeighborWorks provided 149,200 families with vital housing and counseling services that helped prospective homebuyers and renters make informed housing decisions. Providing consumers access to this kind of accurate, comprehensive information throughout the home-buying process can help protect our nation from another mortgage crisis. This has all come at a relatively low cost – NeighborWorks has demonstrated the ability to attract private sector investments to its affordable housing projects, leveraging \$59 in private capital for every \$1 appropriated to the program.

Additionally, as the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the nation's affordable housing crisis extend from urban centers to our rural communities, NeighborWorks' Rural Initiative is specifically dedicated to delivering a range of services to rural communities in America that face unique challenges when it comes to creating affordable homeownership and rental opportunities. With approximately 20 percent of our nation's population living in rural communities, NeighborWorks' financial services, technical assistance, leadership development, and training for community-based development are critical to empowering rural homeownership and rental opportunities.

Last year, Congress passed with broad bipartisan support a Fiscal Year 2021 appropriations package, increasing NeighborWorks funding by more than \$7 million above the Fiscal Year 2020 enacted level. Given the program's demonstrated record of success in increasing access to

affordable housing and continued bipartisan support in Congress, we request that you provide at least \$185 million in funding. With additional funding, NeighborWorks will be able to increase grants to network community-development organizations, leverage additional investments from private sources, and create opportunities for more Americans to live in affordable homes.

As the COVID-19 pandemic ravages communities and the affordable housing crisis continues to affect an increasing number of Americans nationwide, we ask that you work with us to invest in our communities and our constituents by requesting robust funding for NeighborWorks.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



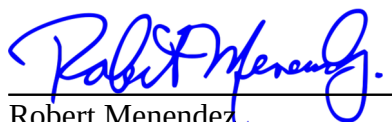
Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



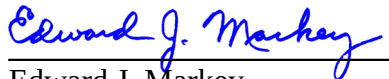
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Joe Manchin III
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

/s/ Bernard Sanders

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

/s/ Maria Cantwell

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



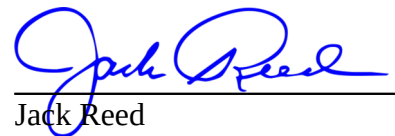
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



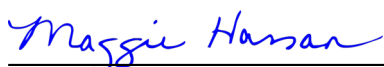
Jon Tester
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



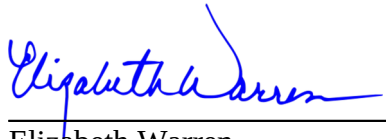
Jack Reed
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



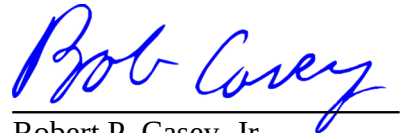
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



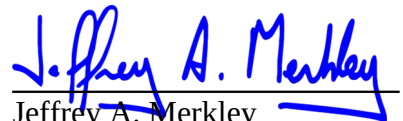
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

/s/ Jeanne Shaheen

Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



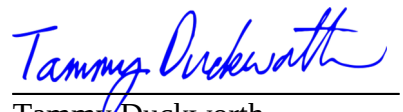
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



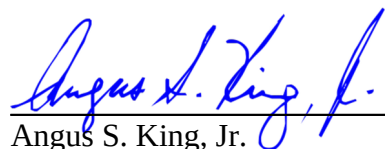
Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



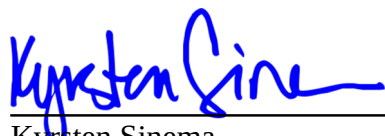
Mark R. Warner
United States Senator

/s/ Richard Blumenthal

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



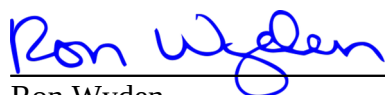
Raphael G. Warnock
United States Senator



Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator

/s/ Christopher S. Murphy

Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

/s/ Ben Ray Luján

Ben Ray Luján
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



John W. Hickenlooper
United States Senator