

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 3, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

As the Chairs of Committees of the United States Senate, we write to express the urgent need for the federal government to utilize a “whole-of-government” approach to address our nation’s housing needs. Whether they rent or own – whether they live in urban, rural, suburban, or Native communities – too many Americans cannot afford a safe place to call home in their communities.

Our nation’s housing is an essential piece of our infrastructure, but it is a sector that remains in crisis. With the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, CHIPS and Science Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act, decisive steps have been taken to address many of our nation’s infrastructure deficiencies. However, more must be done to address the challenges facing the housing sector, where lagging production coupled with aging housing stock are making housing more expensive and unable to meet the needs of all Americans.

We applaud your Administration for the decisive and historic steps it has taken to keep people in their homes and to increase housing production. Your leadership helped reduce the burden of housing costs during the COVID-19 emergency, increase the supply of quality housing through the Housing Supply Action Plan, and, most recently, protect renters. Yet, additional federal investment is needed to address the growing housing crisis and ensure fair and competitive markets for all renters and homeowners across the country. In your Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Proposal, we urge you to maximize available federal resources – across all relevant agencies – to increase the supply of safe, accessible, affordable homes; lower rental housing cost burdens; and expand access to affordable homeownership so that families can build wealth and older adults, grandfamilies, and people with disabilities can live safely in their communities. We also urge your Administration to undertake further efforts to ensure that the resources Congress has already made available are utilized to support communities’ comprehensive planning and economic development goals, including to address local affordable housing needs.

As the Administration assesses the benefits from new federal investments in infrastructure, resiliency, manufacturing, and domestic energy independence, we urge you to track the full benefits of these investments. For example, programs that invest in household energy efficiency can reduce overall costs to families. Similarly, programs that support transportation access and public transportation can increase housing options and reduce household expenses. Investments made to build out a region’s innovation economy or manufacturing base should also consider the importance of housing as part of comprehensive initiatives. Expanded consideration of housing-

related benefits from ongoing federal investments can ensure that the federal government systematically addresses Americans' housing needs while creating good jobs and promoting economic growth.

The Administration should also expand efforts to assist state, local, and Native communities in achieving their goals for accessible, affordable, and sustainable housing, including supporting steps they take to increase housing production. Federal agencies can raise awareness of how federally-backed infrastructure and other economic development investments can support housing needs, and federal agencies can review their assistance programs to identify strategies that can help grant recipients utilize federal resources in a way that supports safe and affordable housing while achieving established programmatic goals. Finally, we also urge you to continue to pursue opportunities for greater interagency alignment and coordination in order to further these goals.

The depth of our country's affordable housing crisis is undeniable. This crisis was exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic, and we continue to learn about how safe and affordable housing can support Americans' health, well-being, and economic opportunity. We thank you for considering the measures suggested in this letter as your Administration continues its work to address housing needs in communities across the nation.

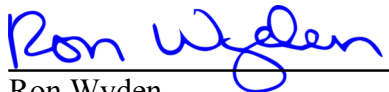
Sincerely,



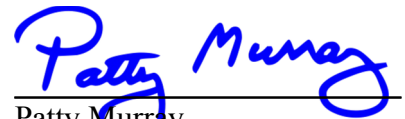
Sherrod Brown
Chairman
Senate Committee on
Banking, Housing, and Urban
Affairs



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



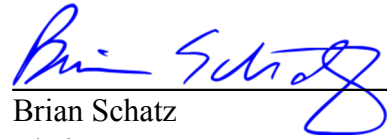
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Patty Murray
United States Senator



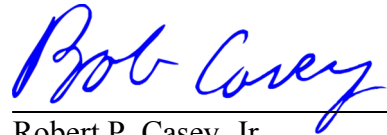
Jack Reed
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
Chairman
Committee on Indian Affairs



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator
Chairman, Committee on
Small Business and
Entrepreneurship



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator
Chairman, Budget Committee



Martin Heinrich
Chairman-Designate
Joint Economic Committee



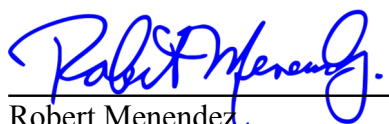
Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



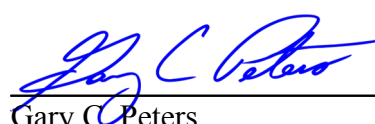
Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator
Chair, Senate Committee on
the Judiciary



Robert Menendez
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee
on Foreign Relations



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator
Chairperson, Committee on
Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
Chairwoman, Committee on
Rules and Administration



Tina Smith
Chair
Subcommittee on Housing,
Transportation, and
Community Development