



**Strengthening Neighborhoods.
Improving Lives.**

Council of Large Public Housing Authorities

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November 25, 2014

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-230 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Minority Leader McConnell:

On behalf of the Council of Large Public Housing Authorities (CLPHA), I am writing to urge you to support the nomination of Lourdes Maria Castro Ramírez, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (PN 1973), currently on the Senate Executive Calendar (Calendar No. 1064) and help to quickly move her nomination to the Senate floor for consideration.

The nomination of Ms. Castro Ramírez was approved on November 19, 2014, by the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. In their statement on her nomination, the Committee noted, “Ms. Ramirez has the understanding and experience necessary to serve as an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Her extensive background in leading and managing affordable housing and community development programs, and current role as the President and CEO of the San Antonio Housing Authority, has prepared her to lead HUD’s Office of Public and Indian Housing, which oversees critical housing assistance to more than 3 million struggling families in cities, small towns, and Native American communities across the country.”

The Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing (PIH) is a critical position at HUD and within the federal government. PIH is responsible for administering and managing over half of the HUD budget, and delivers a range of programs to over 4,000 housing authorities nationwide. Given the scope of this portfolio, it is urgent that this key policy and decision-making position be filled by a candidate of the caliber of Ms. Castro Ramírez.

Additionally, Ms. Castro Ramírez has pledged to working with Secretary Castro to advance his vision of creating the Department of HUD into a “Department of Opportunity”, focusing on strengthening the core affordable housing and housing assistance programs; expanding the innovative programs that are working and expanding the quality of life for families served by PIH; and identifying administrative reforms and streamlining program operations to ensure the delivery of housing programs in an efficient and effective manner.

CLPHA's seventy members represent virtually every major metropolitan area in the country; on any given day, they are serving more than one million households. Together, CLPHA members manage over 40 percent of the nation's multi-billion dollar public housing stock, and administer over 25 percent of the Section 8 housing rental assistance program. Our members are in the vanguard of housing providers and community developers creating entrepreneurial solutions to many of the most difficult affordable housing problems facing our nation.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sunia Zaterman". The signature is fluid and includes a long, sweeping horizontal line at the end.

Sunia Zaterman
Executive Director