



MAINE AFFORDABLE HOUSING COALITION

June 5, 2015

The Honorable Susan Collins  
United States Senate  
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Collins,

As you know, the FY16 T-HUD Appropriations bill passed by the House Appropriations Committee on May 13<sup>th</sup> proposes to eliminate all of the 2016 funding for the National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF). We are writing to urge that the Senate T-HUD Subcommittee, which you chair, not follow what the House has done.

There are only 44 units of affordable and available housing in Maine for every 100 extremely low-income households, which is one of the many reasons why the NHTF - and its targeting of precisely these households - would be so valuable to our state.

The funding for the NHTF is a dedicated source of revenue on the mandatory side of the federal budget, and as such, is not subject to annual appropriations. Funding for the NHTF is based on an assessment of 4.2 basis points of the annual volume of business of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. This is a reliable, predictable stream of funding that is supposed to be separate from HUD appropriations.

We know that the T-HUD Subcommittee is working under severe fiscal constraints, due to caps imposed by the Budget Control Act and sequestration. However, the solution to this problem should not be to raid the funds dedicated to the NHTF to make up for lost appropriated funds.

We are also particularly concerned that, under the House bill, Maine will receive less funding overall than it would have without the changes it proposes, due to the small state minimum provision of the NHTF statute.

**For more than seven years, since you co-sponsored the legislation that created the National Housing Trust Fund, we have been working with you and your staff to make this critical new resource a reality.** We respectfully request that the Senate T-HUD Committee not follow the House Appropriations Committee's lead in further frustrating efforts to put NHTF dollars to work in Maine and around the country.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

ABG Consulting, Gray  
Auburn Housing Authority  
Augusta Housing Authority  
Avesta Housing, Portland  
Bangor Area Homeless Shelter  
Bath Housing  
Becker Structural Engineers, Portland  
Brewer Housing Authority  
Brunswick Housing Authority  
C&C Realty Management, Augusta  
C.M. Cimino Realty Inc., Westbrook  
CEI, Wiscasset  
City of Bangor Public Health and Community Services Department  
City of Portland  
Community Concepts, Lewiston  
Community Housing of Maine, Portland  
Curtis Thaxter, Portland  
CWS Architects, Portland  
Fair Tide, Kittery  
Fort Fairfield Housing Authority  
Four Directions Development Corporation, Orono  
Freeport Housing Trust  
Gawron Turgeon Architects, Scarborough  
Genesis Community Loan Fund, Damariscotta  
Greater Community Land Trust, Portland  
GrowSmart Maine, Portland  
Highland Green, Topsham  
Homestart, Peaks Island  
Housing Initiatives of New England, Portland  
John Anton, Consultant, Portland  
Kennebec Valley Community Action, Waterville  
LeadingAge Maine & New Hampshire  
Life By Design, Presque Isle  
MacDonald Associates, Bath  
Maine Affordable Housing Coalition

Maine Public Health Association  
Maine Workforce Housing LLC, Portland  
MCH, Inc., Rockland  
Murray Plumb & Murray, Portland  
Northern New England Housing Investment Fund, Portland  
OceanView at Falmouth  
Old Town Housing Authority  
Penquis, Bangor  
Planning Decisions, Hallowell  
Portland Housing Authority  
Preble Street, Portland  
Presque Isle Housing Authority  
Raise-Op, Lewiston  
Richard Curtis & Associates, Portland  
Sanford Housing Authority  
Shalom House, Portland  
South Portland Housing Authority  
The Caleb Group, Saco  
The Opportunity Alliance, South Portland  
Thornton Tomasetti, Portland  
Total Construction Management, Winterport  
Washington Hancock Community Agency, Ellsworth  
Westbrook Housing Authority  
Yarmouth Senior Housing  
York County Community Action Corporation, Sanford  
York Housing  
Zachau Construction, Freeport