

Date

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House of Representatives
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

To Leaders Thune and Schumer, Speaker Johnson, and Leader Jeffries:

We, the undersigned national, state, and local organizations, write to oppose efforts by Elon Musk and the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) to terminate at least [half of all employees](#) at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This is a catastrophic staffing cut to an agency that has struggled with a [severe staffing shortage](#) for many years. Without adequate staffing at HUD, states and communities will face new barriers to accessing the critical federal resources they need to pay the rent, build affordable housing, address homelessness, recover from disasters, revitalize distressed communities, promote homeownership, enforce fair housing laws, and more. Rather than improving efficiency, such drastic staffing cuts at HUD will cause significant, harmful, and costly delays and will worsen America's affordable housing and homelessness crisis, as well as its significant disaster recovery needs.

Federal investments at HUD play a critical role in helping low- and moderate-income people in urban, suburban, rural, and Tribal communities thrive. These programs benefit millions of people each year, including people of color, seniors, people with disabilities, families with children, veterans, survivors of domestic violence, first-time homebuyers, and others. While improvements to federal programs are always needed, drastic cuts to HUD staff will not ensure these investments better serve people and communities. Instead, without adequate staff to allocate, oversee, and monitor these resources, communities and households nationwide will face unnecessary delays and challenges to accessing congressionally approved resources to:

- Rebuild housing and infrastructure after major disasters and mitigate future harm by increasing resilient homes.
- Ensure congressionally directed spending can be used to support key projects in local communities identified by members of Congress.
- Help rural communities and Tribal nations address their most pressing housing challenges.
- Build and preserve affordable rental housing for low-income households.
- Address and prevent homelessness, which has reached its highest level on record.
- Provide assistance to help low-income households afford their homes and reduce energy costs.
- Operate and maintain public housing and other affordable housing for millions of seniors, people with disabilities, and families with children.

- Revitalize neighborhoods, promote economic development, and improve community facilities, including infrastructure and services in underserved communities.
- Reform restrictive zoning and land use regulations that inflate housing costs and limit housing supply.
- Fix lead-based paint and other environmental hazards in homes.
- Investigate and enforce fair housing and civil rights laws, comply with legal mandates of the Fair Housing Act, and eliminate discriminatory barriers to housing opportunities.
- Access affordable mortgage loans to purchase and refinance their homes and prevent foreclosures and losses to the FHA insurance fund.

As a direct consequence of the proposed staffing cuts, homeless shelters will close their doors, communities will stop construction on housing and community centers, households receiving rental assistance will face immediate rent increases and evictions, fair housing organizations cannot assist victims of discrimination, and communities, families, and small businesses impacted by disasters will be unable to rebuild. Local organizations that rely on federal funding to serve their communities may be forced to lay off staff or stop operations, and potential homebuyers may be locked out of the market.

Our organizations see first-hand the value that these federal resources provide to individuals, families, and communities, as well as to housing markets. At a time when housing costs are a tremendous burden for millions of low-income renters, homeownership is out of reach for a growing number of households, and discrimination complaints and homelessness have reached all-time highs, now is the time to strengthen federal investments in fair and affordable housing, community development, and homelessness solutions. HUD not only serves millions of renters, homeowners, and people experiencing homelessness, but it also is a key partner to a healthy housing market.

We urge you to stop Elon Musk and DOGE from gutting a key federal agency dedicated to addressing our most pressing housing, community development, and homelessness challenges.

Sincerely,