



NATIONAL LOW INCOME  
HOUSING COALITION

January 24, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

To Majority Leader Chuck Schumer:

On behalf of the National Low Income Housing Coalition, I write to urge you to prioritize the confirmation of highly qualified nominees to lead critical components of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), including Mr. David Uejio for Assistant Secretary for the Office Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, Ms. Julia Ruth Gordon for Assistant Secretary for the Federal Housing Administration, Dr. Solomon Jefferey Greene for Assistant Secretary for the Office of Policy Development and Research, and Mr. James Arthur Jemison for Assistant Secretary of Public and Indian Housing. In a different time, each of these candidates would have received a strong bipartisan vote to advance nominations. Republican opposition to these nominees is not based on their proven qualifications or expertise; rather, their opposition is designed solely to cause further delays to leave HUD without confirmed leadership for critical programs and offices and to deny HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge the full leadership team needed to effectively execute HUD's mission. There is no reason why the Senate should delay these nominations any further. I urge you to bring these nominations to the floor for discharge and confirmation votes so that they may work to advance the mission of HUD and their respective offices.

The National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) is solely dedicated to achieving racially and socially equitable public policy that ensures people with the lowest incomes have quality homes that are accessible and affordable in communities of their choice. NLIHC members include state and local affordable housing coalitions, residents of public and assisted housing, nonprofit housing providers, homeless service providers, fair housing organizations, researchers, faith-based organizations, public housing agencies, private developers and property owners, local and state government agencies, and concerned citizens. While our members include the spectrum of housing interests, we do not represent any segment of the housing industry. Rather, we work on behalf of and with low-income people who receive federal housing assistance and those in need of it, especially extremely low-income people and people experiencing homelessness.

Mr. Uejio currently serves as the Acting Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and through his leadership has taken bold action to protect vulnerable households from unfair, deceptive, and abusive financial practices. He has a demonstrated history of successfully carrying out the mission of the agencies he has served and has led the strategic direction and resource mobility for racial and economic equity throughout his career. Mr. Uejio's depth of expertise in fair lending and track record of carrying out agencies' mission with concrete outcomes makes it essential to quickly confirm his nomination so that he may lead the Office

Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity and enforce the Fair Housing Act to ensure that there is equitable access to housing for all people.

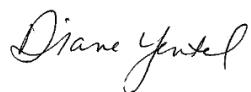
Ms. Gordon is the President of the National Community Stabilization Trust, a nonprofit organization that supports neighborhood revitalization and affordable homeownership through facilitating the rehabilitation of residential properties in underserved markets. She has advocated against predatory lending practices, provided loss mitigation for homeowners, worked to prevent blight and create more opportunities for homeownership nationally. She has been deeply committed to prioritizing increasing the supply of affordable housing for both renters and homeowners. Ms. Gordon is uniquely qualified and her decades of work in both nonprofit organizations and government agencies provides her the technical expertise and stakeholder management skills needed to continue the mission of FHA and to help those seeking aid from COVID-19 economic hardship.

Dr. Greene is a highly trained, seasoned, and unbiased researcher with a strong commitment to HUD's mission. Through various roles during his career – from serving in local government to his current position as a senior fellow at the Urban Institute – Dr. Greene has provided local communities with the data, evidence, and insights they need to support comprehensive affordable housing policies, revitalize disinvested neighborhoods, remove exclusionary barriers, and adopt inclusive economic development strategies. The Office of Policy Development and Research plays a critical role for the entire agency and the Assistant Secretary must be familiar with the public policy development process, understand the importance of rigorous research in formulating evidence-based policy solutions, and provide effective leadership and management. It is critical that Dr. Greene be confirmed as swiftly as possible to continue this important work with the agency.

Mr. Jemison currently leads HUD's Office of Community Development and Planning as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary and has served with the agency since January 2021. The Office of Public and Indian Housing (PIH) provides safe affordable housing for millions of American families every night, and it is responsible for administering public housing, the Housing Choice Voucher Program, the Indian Housing Block Grant, and many more key programs. PIH requires a leader with a wealth of experience in the affordable housing and community development industry and one who fully understands the importance of well-maintained public housing and rental assistance for low-income families across America. Mr. Jemison has over 25 years of experience planning and developing market-rate and affordable housing and is devoted to working to end homelessness and supporting the strength of tribal communities across the nation.

Affordable, accessible, and decent housing is a universal right, and we cannot let political polarization prevent HUD from executing on its critical work in communities across the nation. We stand ready to work with you to quickly confirm these nominees.

Sincerely,



Diane Yentel  
President and CEO  
National Low Income Housing Coalition