



# NHTF • The National Housing Trust Fund

July 2, 2015

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Chair  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Transportation and Urban Development  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Transportation and Urban Development  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Collins and Ranking Member Reed:

On behalf of the more than 7,000 organizations from every Congressional District that endorse the National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF), I write to thank you for protecting the program's funding in the Senate Appropriation Committee's FY16 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies (THUD) spending bill. We thank you for rejecting the House's proposal to direct all NHTF resources into the HOME program in FY 2016 and to prohibit any funds from any source from going to the NHTF. We know we can count on your steadfast support for the NHTF, a program aimed at helping the poorest Americans meet their housing needs.

As you know, in communities across America, millions are without access to affordable and decent housing. Extremely low income (ELI) families face a national shortage of 7.1 million affordable rental units, and for every 100 extremely low income renters, there are only 31 affordable and available rental homes. Across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and major metropolitan areas, there is a need to build and preserve affordable rental housing for the lowest income households. Because of this shortage, many ELI renter households must pay more than they can afford for their homes, forcing them to forego healthcare, groceries, and savings for education and retirement— just so they can pay rent.

The primary purpose of the NHTF is to expand the supply of rental housing that is affordable for extremely low income households. No other federal housing program that

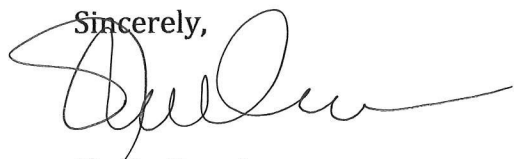
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expands the supply of rental housing is targeted to this income group, and the existing HUD programs that do serve this income group are shrinking due to cuts discretionary programs—as you are all too aware. The NHTF is the only viable option currently in law to begin to address this disgraceful national shortage.

We are mindful of the fact that the Subcommittee was under severe constraints, which unfortunately is inherent in all appropriations work since the enactment of the Budget Control Act (BCA) and the advent of sequestration. NLIHC urges Congress to reverse the sequestration cuts put in place by the BCA and enact legislation similar to the FY 2014 and FY 2015 Murray-Ryan Bipartisan Budget Act. If such legislation is passed, we look forward to working with you in the coming months to ensure HUD programs have the funds they need to continue to serve some of the poorest and most vulnerable families in the nation.

Thank you again for your unwavering support and leadership in fighting for the housing needs of low income Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sheila Crowley', written in a cursive style.

Sheila Crowley  
President and CEO

National Low Income Housing Coalition