



NATIONAL LOW INCOME HOUSING COALITION



Sheila Crowley, President
Board of Directors July 8, 2014

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The Honorable John Delaney
Member of Congress
1632 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Carney
Member of Congress
1406 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jim Himes
Member of Congress
119 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Delaney, Carney, and Himes:

On behalf of the members of the National Low Income Housing Coalition, I want to thank you for creating a robust dedicate source of revenue for the National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF) in the Partnership to Strengthen Home Ownership Act. We are grateful for your strong support of the NHTF and your prioritization of the housing needs of very poor people.

As you know, the primary purpose of the NHTF is to build, preserve, rehabilitate, and operate rental housing affordable to extremely low income households. Today, these households experience a nationwide shortage of seven million affordable and available rental homes.

We commend you for retaining the principle that the housing finance industry should be assessed a modest amount to support housing activities that the market does not, specifically housing affordable to the poorest families. The draft bill would direct 75% of the 10 basis point fee assessed on users of the new housing finance system, estimated to be \$3.75 billion, to the NHTF.

The NHTF dollars, which would be administered as a block grant to states from HUD would represent the largest public investment in rental housing in 40 years, and would

be a “game changer” to states’ capacity to assure decent and affordable homes for their poorest residents.

Your bill also makes critical improvements to the existing NHTF statute by adding congressional oversight measures and reporting requirements in the event that NHTF contributions need to be temporarily suspended in the future. We commend you for including these much needed provisions in the measure.

Your bill reflects the long-held notion that helping the most vulnerable citizens is a proper function of government. We look forward to working with you as your bill progresses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sheila Crowley', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Sheila Crowley
President and CEO