United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 13, 2022

The Honorable Brian Schatz Chairman Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development, and Related Agencies U.S. Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, Housing, and Urban
Development, and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Schatz and Ranking Member Collins:

As you consider the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) Appropriations Act, we ask that you provide at least \$185 million for the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation, commonly known as NeighborWorks America. With the nation's affordable housing crisis continuing to worsen, now is the time to increase our investment in ensuring that Americans have access to reasonably-priced and quality housing options.

As a Congressionally-chartered, national nonprofit, NeighborWorks creates opportunities for Americans to live in affordable and safe homes by providing community development organizations in all fifty states with financial resources and counseling services. In Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21), NeighborWorks created and maintained over 49,000 jobs, repaired 79,100 homes, and empowered 22,000 new homeowners. That same year, NeighborWorks provided 470,700 housing and counseling sessions that helped prospective homebuyers and renters make informed housing decisions. Providing consumers access to this kind of accurate, comprehensive information throughout the home-buying process can help protect our nation from another mortgage crisis. This has all come at a relatively low cost – NeighborWorks has demonstrated the ability to attract private sector investments to its affordable housing projects, leveraging \$102 in private capital for every \$1 appropriated to the program.

Additionally, as the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the nation's ongoing affordable housing crisis extend from urban centers to our rural communities, NeighborWorks' Rural Initiative is specifically dedicated to delivering a range of services to rural communities in America that face unique challenges when it comes to creating affordable homeownership and rental opportunities. With approximately 20 percent of our nation's population living in rural communities, NeighborWorks' financial services, technical assistance, leadership development, and training for community-based development are critical to empowering rural homeownership and rental opportunities.

This year, Congress passed the Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) appropriations package with broad bipartisan support, funding NeighborWorks with \$8 million above the Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) enacted level just two years prior. Given the program's demonstrated record of success in increasing access to affordable housing, its continued bipartisan support in Congress, and an

ever-worsening affordable housing crisis, we request that you provide NeighborWorks at least \$185 million in funding in FY23. With additional funding, NeighborWorks will be able to increase grants to network community-development organizations, leverage additional investments from private sources, and create opportunities for more Americans to live in affordable homes.

We ask that you work with us to invest in our communities and our constituents by providing robust funding to NeighborWorks. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Jacky Rosen

United States Senator

Christopher S. Murphy United States Senator

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United States Senator

Thomas R. Carpen

United States Senator

Catherine Cortez Masto

United States Senator

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United States Senator

Raphael G. Warnock United States Senator

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Maggir Harsan Margaret Wood Hassan

United States Senator

Edward J. Markey
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Angus S. King, Jr. *U* United States Senator

Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

Tim Kaine

United States Senator

Maria Cantwell United States Senator Michael F. Bennet United States Senator

Ron Wyden

United States Senator

Robert Menendez United States Senator

Chris Van Hollen United States Senator

Robert P. Casey, Jr.

United States Senator

Kirsten Gillibrand United States Senator

United States Senator

Alex Padilla United States Senator Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

Ben Ray Lujan United States Senator

Joe Manchin III
United States Senator

Sherrod Brown United States Senator

Jeffrey A. Merkley

United States Senator

Dianne Feinstein United States Senator Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator

John Hickenlooper United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow United States Senator

Benjamin L. Cardin United States Senator

Martin Heinrich United States Senator Elizabeth Warren United States Senator

Jeanne Shaheen United States Senator

Panne Shaheen

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

Mark Kelly United States Senator Mark R. Warner

United States Senator

Richard J. Durbin

United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse

United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal

United States Senator