

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 27, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you develop your Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Request, we write to ask that you request robust funding 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, quality housing options.

As a Congressionally-chartered, national nonprofit, NeighborWorks helps create 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 2018, NeighborWorks created and maintained over 45,100 jobs, repaired 75,000 homes, and empowered 25,000 new homeowners. That same year, NeighborWorks provided 177,800 families with vital housing and counseling services 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 \$60 in private capital for every \$1 appropriated to the program.

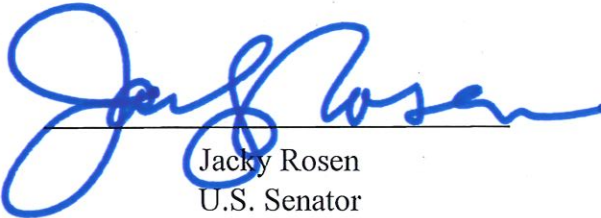
Additionally, as the nation's affordable housing crisis extends from urban centers to our rural communities, NeighborWorks' Rural Initiative is specifically dedicated to delivering a range of services to rural communities in America that face unique challenges when it comes to creating affordable homeownership 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.

Despite these positive outcomes and a rising affordable housing crisis on the nation's doorstep, your Fiscal Year 2020 Budget recommended that NeighborWorks funding be cut by over 80 percent, with the remaining dollars allocated only for preparing "the discontinuation of federal funding," effectively eliminating this critical program. Thankfully, recognizing NeighborWorks' proven track record of building affordable housing, Congress in December passed with broad bipartisan support – and you signed into law – a Fiscal Year 2020 appropriations package rejecting these cuts, and instead increasing Neighborworks funding by more than \$5 million, for a total of \$157.5 million in total investment.

Given the program's demonstrated record of success in increasing access to affordable housing and continued bipartisan support in Congress, we encourage you to request increased funding for the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation in your FY2021 Budget. 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. As the affordable housing crisis continues to affect an increasing number of Americans nationwide, we ask that you work with us to invest in our communities and our constituents by requesting robust funding for Neighborworks.

We look forward to your response and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



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Jacky Rosen  
U.S. Senator



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Mazie K. Hirono  
U.S. Senator



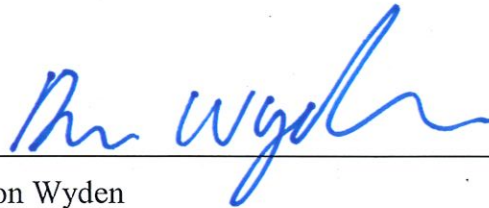
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Catherine Cortez Masto  
U.S. Senator



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Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
U.S. Senator



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Ron Wyden  
U.S. Senator



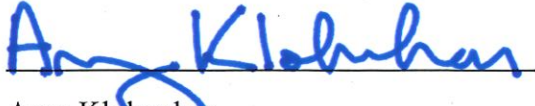
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Bernard Sanders  
U.S. Senator

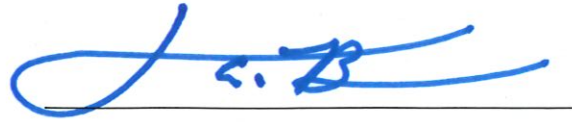


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Sheldon Whitehouse  
U.S. Senator



Amy Klobuchar  
U.S. Senator



Cory Booker  
U.S. Senator



Richard Blumenthal  
U.S. Senator