



June 20, 2019

The Honorable Richard Neal
Chairman, House Ways and Means Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Neal,

On behalf of the National Council of State Housing Agencies (NCSHA), thank you for including in the Taxpayer Certainty and Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2019, H.R. 3301, additional resources to help California communities rebuild affordable housing destroyed by recent wildfires through additional Low Income Housing Tax Credits (Housing Credits).

We also encourage you to provide additional Housing Credits to other states that have recently experienced significant losses of affordable housing as a result of federally declared disasters, such as the Midwest states hit with catastrophic floods this year. As you know, Congress provided similar assistance to Midwest states in 2008 and to the Gulf Coast region in 2005, which proved in both cases to be an essential and effective investment.

Given the unfortunate virtual certainty that natural disasters will damage and destroy the limited amount of affordable housing available in many more states in the months and years ahead, we also ask you to include in your bill as much as possible of the Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act, H.R. 3077.

This legislation was introduced recently by Representatives Suzan DelBene (D-WA), Kenny Marchant (R-TX), Don Beyer (D-VA), and Jackie Walorski (R-IN) and is already cosponsored by 29 House members, on and off the Committee.

The Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act of 2019 would build upon the proven success of the Housing Credit. It would extend the temporary Housing Credit cap increase enacted two years ago and increase Housing Credit allocation authority by 50 percent, taking a meaningful step towards addressing our nation's vast and growing affordable housing needs.

As you well know, the Housing Credit has become our nation's most successful tool for encouraging private investment in the production and preservation of affordable rental

housing, responsible for nearly all of the affordable housing built and preserved in recent decades. It has financed 3.2 million apartments since 1986, which have provided approximately 7.4 million low-income families, seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities homes they can afford. The Housing Credit is a model public-private partnership, bringing to bear private sector resources, market forces, and state-level administration.

We appreciate all the work you have done to support the Housing Credit over the years and to call upon it in your new bill to address disaster-related housing areas. We urge you to amend your bill to strengthen the Housing Credit further and provide much-needed additional resources for other areas impacted recently by severe disasters.

Sincerely,



Stockton Williams
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Kevin Brady, Ranking Member