



September 21, 2015

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Reid, Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Pelosi,

The National Housing Conference (NHC) asks Congress to raise the sequester spending caps for FY2016 so housing and community development programs can assist people and communities nationwide. NHC is concerned that the continual cuts in housing and community development programs in recent years will hurt vulnerable families and individuals including those with disabilities, seniors, children, veterans and people experiencing homelessness.

Further, the National Housing Conference believes appropriations bills cannot adequately address the growing housing needs of millions of households because of the constraints placed on them by the Budget Control Act's sequester spending limits. Underfunding HUD programs works against the goals of helping Americans struggling to live in safe, stable, affordable housing and to revitalize their communities. Housing and community development programs also generate significant economic activity in localities nationwide and help to redevelop places struggling to grow economically. Congress must raise the caps to meet the current need.

The National Housing Conference represents a diverse membership of housing stakeholders including mortgage bankers, real estate professionals, tenant advocates, nonprofit and for-profit home builders, property managers, policy practitioners, equity investors and more, all of whom share a commitment to safe, decent and affordable housing for all in America. We are the nation's oldest housing advocacy organization, dedicated to the affordable housing mission since our founding in 1931. We are a nonpartisan, 501(c) 3 nonprofit that brings together our broad-based membership to advocate on housing issues.

We appreciate your attention to this issue and hope that you can reach across the aisle to solve this budget impasse.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Chris Estes'.

Chris Estes
President and CEO

Cc:
Hon. Thad Cochran, Hon. Barbara Mikulski, Hon. Hal Rogers, Hon. Nita Lowey, Hon. Susan Collins, Hon. Jack Reed,
Hon. Mario Diaz-Balart, Hon. David Price