

June 12, 2017

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Banking, Housing & Urban Affairs
713 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
728 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Menendez
528 Hart Senate Office Building

The Honorable Jon Tester
311 Hart Senate Office Building

The Honorable Mark R. Warner
703 Hart Senate Office Building

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
317 Hart Senate Office Building

The Honorable Heidi Heitkamp
SH-516 Hart Senate Office Building

The Honorable Joe Donnelly
720 Hart Senate Office Building

The Honorable Brian Schatz
722 Hart Senate Office Building

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
110 Hart Senate Office Building

The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto
204 Russell Senate Office Building

Dear Senators,

The National Housing Conference supports Pamela Hughes Patenaude to become Deputy Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). We also oppose the drastic cuts the Trump Administration has proposed for HUD, and we appreciate that many of you raised this in the hearings. As advocates for affordable housing, we are treating the budget and the nomination as separate issues, and we urge you to do the same.

We appreciate the thorough and thoughtful hearing the Committee held on Ms. Patenaude's nomination. We hope that you concur with the position we expressed in a previous letter to the full Committee that Ms. Patenaude is eminently qualified to be Deputy Secretary.

NHC has publicly opposed the proposed drastic budget cuts to HUD and will continue to do so. We do not expect this administration to nominate political appointees who publicly oppose the budget proposal. Furthermore, we expect Congress to enact responsible budget and appropriations laws that invest in affordable housing as part of growing opportunity in America. We will work with all of you and with other members of Congress in both parties to sustain and expand federal support for affordable housing. In doing so we hope to empower the dedicated public servants at HUD to address the serious housing challenges we all face.

About the National Housing Conference

Everyone in America should have equal opportunity to live in a quality, affordable home in a thriving community. The National Housing Conference educates decision makers and the public about housing policies and practices to move housing forward together. NHC convenes and collaborates with our diverse membership and the broader housing and



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community development sectors to advance our policy, research and communications initiatives to effect positive change at the federal, state and local levels. Founded in 1931, we are a nonpartisan, 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. NHC's research team operated as the Center for Housing Policy until the organizations merged in 2013

Sincerely,

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

Chris Estes
President & CEO