

October 20, 2011

The Honorable Jeff Merkley  
313 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Scott Brown  
359 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Merkley and Senator Brown,

We are writing in support of the Merkley-Brown preservation amendment. This amendment is critical to the preservation of affordable rental housing units that are at risk of being lost. Your leadership on this issue will ensure that these units remain viable housing options for low-income families. This is a no cost amendment.

As you are aware, certain HUD programs do not offer owners the ability to renew their rental assistance contracts. With the continuation of a long term contract, owners or preservation purchasers will be able to better maintain the properties by leveraging outside financing and residents will maintain their mobility options.

This no-cost solution is critical in serving low-income families across the country. Over half of the residents in HUD-assisted housing are elderly or persons with disabilities. The average income of these families is \$11,400. It is critical to preserve the hard rental units in order to ensure that vulnerable populations have housing options in the future that are safe, decent and affordable.

Thank you for your leadership on this critical issue and we look forward to working with you in the future on creative and economical solutions for housing.

Sincerely,

The National Preservation Working Group

Action Housing (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania)

Alliance to Develop Power (Springfield, Massachusetts)

Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development (New York City)

Beacon Development Group (Washington State)

California Coalition for Rural Housing

California Housing Partnership Corporation

CASA of Oregon

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

Chicago Rehab Network

Chicago Housing Initiative  
Coalition for Non-profit Housing and Economic Development  
Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio  
Coastal Enterprises, Inc. (Maine)  
Common Bond Communities (Minnesota)  
Community Economic Development Assistance Corporation (Massachusetts)  
Community Housing Partners (Virginia)  
Community Investment Corporation (Chicago)  
Community Service Society of New York  
Crossroads Urban Center (Utah)  
Enterprise Community Partners  
Florida Legal Services, Inc.  
Homes for America (Maryland)  
Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania  
Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey  
Housing Assistance Council  
Housing Partnership Network  
Housing Preservation Project (Minnesota)  
Lakeview Action Coalition  
Leading Age  
Legal Aid Society  
Local Initiatives Support Corporation  
Lutheran Services  
Mercy Housing  
MidPen Housing (California)  
Minnesota Housing Partnership  
National Alliance of HUD Tenants  
National Church Residences  
National Council of State Housing Agencies  
National Farm Workers Service Center, Inc.  
National Housing Conference

National Housing Law Project  
National Housing Trust  
National Low Income Housing Coalition  
Neighborhood Services Organization (Michigan)  
Network for Oregon Affordable Housing  
Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing  
Pratt Area Community Council (New York)  
Preservation of Affordable Housing  
Public Counsel Law Center  
Sargent Shriver Center on Poverty Law  
Shimberg Center for Housing Studies  
Smart Growth America  
Stewards for Affordable Housing for the Future  
Tenants and Neighbors (New York)  
Texas Tenants' Union  
The Community Builders, Inc. (Massachusetts)  
Urban Homesteading Assistance Board (New York)  
Volunteers of America