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A home is the *foundation.*

March 4, 2010

The Honorable Max Baucus
Chairman
Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6200

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6200

Dear Chairman Baucus and Ranking Member Grassley:

As the Senate prepares to consider the American Workers, State, and Business Relief Act of 2010 (H.R. 4213), the 38 undersigned organizations ask that you include provisions to fund the National Housing Trust Fund in this bill.

The National Housing Trust Fund was created in the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 to provide much needed housing opportunities for those with the lowest incomes. An infusion of \$1 billion into the Trust fund will support the immediate construction of 10,000 rental homes, creating 15,000 new construction jobs and 4,000 new jobs in ongoing operations. These homes will help address the very real shortage of housing affordable and available for our lowest income families. According to recent data, there are only 37 units available and affordable for every 100 of those at 30% of area median income and below. A scarcity of housing that the poorest families can afford is the principle cause of homelessness in the United States.

The President has recognized the importance of the NHTF and requested funding for it in both his FY10 and FY11 budgets. In a recent "dear colleague" letter, 25 senators supported including the NHTF in the jobs bill (see attached).

We are requesting \$1.065 billion; \$1 billion to capitalize the NHTF and \$65 million for project-based vouchers to couple with NHTF capital grants. Please include these amounts in H.R. 4213.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

American Association for Homes and Services for the Aging
Catholic Charities USA
Center for Community Change
Coalition on Human Needs
Consortium for Citizens With Disabilities Housing Task Force
Corporation for Supportive Housing
Council on Large Public Housing Authorities
Enterprise Community Partners
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Housing Assistance Council
Jesuit Conference
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Jewish Federations of North America
Lutheran Services in America
Mennonite Central Committee, Washington Office
NAACP
National AIDS Housing Coalition.
National Alliance to End Homelessness
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Coalition for the Homeless
National Coalition on Asian Pacific American Community Development
National Council of Churches of Christ, USA
National Council of La Raza
National Council on Independent Living
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Housing Trust
National Housing Law Project
National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty
National Low Income Housing Coalition
National Policy and Advocacy Council on Homelessness
NCB Capital Impact
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
Poverty & Race Research Action Council
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Washington Office
Technical Assistance Collaborative
Union for Reform Judaism
United Methodist Church – General Board of Church and Society
Volunteers of America