

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing and Urban Development
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Quigley
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing and Urban Development
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member Quigley,

We write today to urge you to act to ensure that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) complies with federal law and reverses course on regulations that harm Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) who are in the most need of federal assistance. The statutory language in the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998 clearly states that “a public housing agency shall receive the full financial benefit from any reduction in the cost of utilities or waste management resulting from any contract with a third party,” but HUD’s regulations and policies almost always only allow PHAs to retain just *half* of their negotiated utilities savings. We urge you to take action to abide by the Act and fully support PHAs that face the most significant challenges of backlogged repairs. This will allow PHAs to address potentially life-threatening harm to public housing residents, including loss of heat in winter, loss of air conditioning in summer, lead, mold, broken elevators and locks, and more. To fix this serious issue, we urge that the following language be included in the report accompanying the Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriations bill:

Utility Savings – The Committee directs the Department of Housing and Urban Development to allow PHAs under receivership or under the control of a Federal monitor to retain the full financial benefit of the Rate Reduction Benefit from All Utilities which the PHAs earn each year from negotiating with utilities and waste management companies and further directs that HUD shall direct the PHAs to use these savings for urgent repairs to PHA buildings.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention to this request.

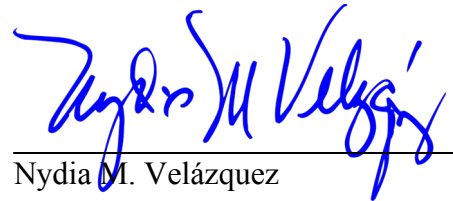
Sincerely,



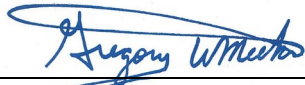
Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



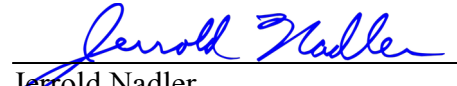
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



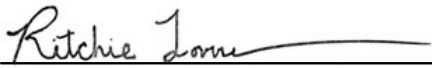
Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress