

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 17, 2023

The Honorable Marcia L. Fudge
Secretary
Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th St. SW
Washington, D.C. 20410

Dear Secretary Fudge:

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 shortchange Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) by preventing them from receiving the full financial benefit of their negotiated savings from utility companies.

As you know, 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 abide by the Act and support PHAs that face the most significant challenges of backlogged repairs. For example, the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) works hard to aggressively negotiate significant savings from utilities. If allowed to retain the full benefit of their negotiated utilities savings, NYCHA would be able to use that additional \$50 million per year to address needed maintenance that poses 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. This matter is of the utmost importance, and we urge you to address it as soon as possible. We request that you update us on your plan to do so by Friday, September 8th.

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

Sincerely,



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



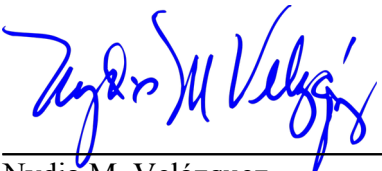
Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



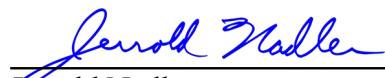
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



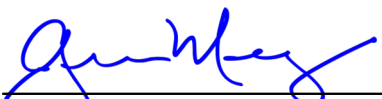
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
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Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
Member of Congress