

May 13, 2021

The Honorable Brian Schatz
722 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Todd Young
185 Dirksen Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Derek Kilmer
2059 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Trey Hollingsworth
1641 Longworth House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cindy Axne
1034 Longworth House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Van Taylor
1404 Longworth House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gregory Meeks
2310 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brian Fitzpatrick
271 Cannon House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ed Case
2210 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
2462 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Quigley
2059 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jaime Herrera Beutler
2352 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norma Torres
2227 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Schatz and Young and Representatives Kilmer, Hollingsworth, Axne, Meeks, Case, Quigley, Torres, Taylor, Fitzpatrick, Foxx, and Herrera Beutler:

Our organizations are proud to support the *Yes in My Backyard (YIMBY) Act*. This bipartisan legislation is vital for encouraging communities to build more affordable and market-rate housing. This need will only grow as the country recovers from the economic and public health impacts of COVID-19. The YIMBY Act, which passed the House without opposition in 2020, is a perfect complement to many of the housing bills currently being considered in Congress. It deserves swift passage, and we thank you for your leadership in reintroducing this critical legislation.

As you know, The YIMBY Act requires localities that receive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to publicly report on whether or not they have adopted a suite of local policies that affect housing affordability and availability. It does not require that recipients adopt any specific approach; instead, it encourages communities to play a constructive role in solving the housing crisis. Recognizing and eliminating exclusionary housing policies - zoning and density restrictions, onerous parking requirements, and other regulations - is an essential first step in decreasing barriers to new housing of all price levels. The YIMBY Act will help communities recognize their agency in combatting the national housing shortage and provide the federal government with a constructive role in reaching important policy ends.

The YIMBY Act aligns well with recently introduced legislation and other proposals currently being considered in Congress. For example, the policies covered under the *YIMBY Act* are similar to those in the bipartisan *Housing Supply and Affordability Act*, and the latter bill would provide grants to help localities implement pro-housing planning to fulfill the requirements of both bills. The *YIMBY Act* cites “creating transit-oriented development zones;” the bipartisan *Build More Housing Near Transit Act of 2021* would prioritize affordable and market-rate housing development near federally funded transit stations and enable CDBG funds for affordable housing to be used as match for competitive federal transit investments. Rather than conflict with these bills and others, the *YIMBY Act* can add to the critical conversation happening across the country and provide a framework for communities to enact policies proven to address the housing shortage.

In 2020, the *YIMBY Act* was one of the last bills the House passed before the legislative body turned its attention almost exclusively to the COVID-19 response. There is reason to believe it would have passed the Senate had it not been for the unforeseen circumstances of a global pandemic. We applaud you for reviving this vital piece of legislation and leading the fight to pass it – and for it to become law – during the 117th Congress. There is no question that it is needed now more than ever.

Thank you, and we look forward to continuing this essential conversation with you and your staffs.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

American Institute of Architects (AIA)
American Planning Association (APA)
Americans for Prosperity
Commercial Real Estate Finance Council (CREFC)
Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU)
Council of Large Public Housing Authorities (CLPHA)
Family Promise
Grounded Solutions Network
Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI)
Housing Advisory Group (HAG)
Leading Builders of America
LOCUS: Responsible Real Estate Developers and Investors
Manufactured Housing Institute (MHI)
Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA)
NAIOP, the Commercial Real Estate Development Association
National Apartment Association (NAA)
National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals (NAHREP)

National Association of Home Builders (NAHB)
National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB)
National Association of REALTORS® (NAR)
National Association of Residential Property Managers (NARPM)
National Community Stabilization Trust (NCST)
National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA)
National Housing Conference (NHC)
National Leased Housing Association (NLHA)
National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC)
National Multifamily Housing Council (NMHC)
National NeighborWorks® Association
Prosperity Now
R Street Institute
ReFrame Foundation
Smart Growth America (SGA)
The Real Estate Roundtable (RER)
Up for Growth Action
YIMBY Action

State and Local Organizations

1000 Friends of Oregon (Oregon)
10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania (Pennsylvania)
5th Square (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)
A Better Cambridge (Cambridge, Massachusetts)
Abundant Housing LA (Los Angeles, California)
Aeon (Minneapolis, Minnesota)
African Development Center (Minneapolis, Minnesota)
AHEAD Inc. (Littleton, New Hampshire)
AIA Seattle (Seattle, Washington)
AIA Washington Council (Washington)
Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority (Akron, Ohio)
Alliance for Housing Solutions (Arlington, Virginia)
Apartment Association of Kentucky (Kentucky)
Apartment Association of Metro Denver (Denver, Colorado)
Arbor Housing and Development (Corning, New York)
Arizona Housing Coalition (Arizona)
Arizona Housing, Inc. (Arizona)
Arizona Multihousing Association (Arizona)
Arkansas Manufactured Housing Association (Arkansas)
Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (Arlington, Virginia)
Bay Area Council (San Francisco, California)
Boise Valley Habitat for Humanity (Boise, Idaho)
BRIDGE Housing Corporation (San Francisco, California)
Bryan/College Station Habitat for Humanity (College Station, Texas)
Building Industry Association of Central Ohio (Columbus, Ohio)
Business for a Better Portland (Portland, Oregon)
California YIMBY (California)
CalOZ (California)
Cambridge Neighborhood Apartment Housing Service (Cambridge, Massachusetts)

CASA of Oregon (Oregon)
Catholic Charities of Louisville (Louisville, Kentucky)
Charlotte Mecklenburg Housing Partnership, Inc. (Charlotte, North Carolina)
Circulate San Diego (San Diego, California)
Climate Action Campaign (California)
Coachella Valley Housing Coalition (Indio, California)
Coalition on Homelessness & Housing in Ohio (Ohio)
Coastal Enterprises, Inc. (Brunswick, Maine)
Colorado Association of REALTORS® (Colorado)
Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (Colorado)
CommonBond Communities (St. Paul, Minnesota)
Community Concepts, Inc. (Lewiston, Maine)
Community Development Corporation of Long Island (Centereach, New York)
Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona (Tucson, Arizona)
Community Foundation for Southern Arizona (Tucson, Arizona)
Community Frameworks (Spokane, Washington)
Community Housing Development Corporation (Richmond, California)
Community Housing Improvement Program (New York, New York)
Community Housing Partners (Christiansburg, Virginia)
Community Service Programs of West Alabama, Inc. (Tuscaloosa, Alabama)
Congress for the New Urbanism – Central Texas Chapter (CNU-CTX) (Austin, Texas)
Congress for the New Urbanism – Illinois Chapter (Illinois)
Connecticut Housing Partners (Connecticut)
Detroit Housing Commission (Detroit, Michigan)
DHIC, Inc. (Raleigh, North Carolina)
Downstreet Housing & Community Development (Vermont)
Downtown Austin Alliance (Austin, Texas)
Downtown Denver Partnership (Denver, Colorado)
East Bay for Everyone (Oakland, California)
East Bay YIMBY Action (Oakland, California)
Eastern Eight CDC (Johnson City, Tennessee)
Elm City Communities/Housing Authority of the City of New Haven (New Haven, Connecticut)
Excellerate Foundation (Springdale, Arkansas)
Fahe (Kentucky)
Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (Indiana)
Fifth Avenue Committee (Brooklyn, New York)
Fifth Ward Community Redevelopment Corporation (Houston, Texas)
Foundation Communities (Austin, Texas)
Georgia Advancing Communities Together, Inc. (Georgia)
Good Business Colorado (Colorado)
Greater Charlotte Apartment Association (Charlotte, North Carolina)
Greater Greater Washington (Washington, DC)
Greater Minnesota Housing Fund (Minnesota)
Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities (Traverse City, Michigan)
GROW South Dakota (South Dakota)
Grow the Richmond (San Francisco, California)
Habitat for Humanity of Greater Indianapolis (Indianapolis, Indiana)
Habitat for Humanity of Greater Providence (Providence, Rhode Island)
Habitat for Humanity of Hawai'i Island (Kailua-Kona, Hawaii)

Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City (Kansas City, Missouri)
Habitat for Humanity of Lincoln (Lincoln, Nebraska)
Habitat for Humanity of Maui (Wailuku, Hawaii)
Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota (Minnesota)
Habitat for Humanity of Northeast Michigan (Alpena, Michigan)
Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia (Alexandra, Virginia)
Habitat for Humanity of St. Joseph County (South Bend, Indiana)
Habitat for Humanity of Washington, DC (Washington, DC)
Habitat for Humanity Seattle-King County (Seattle, Washington)
Haight Ashbury Neighbors for Density (San Francisco, California)
HDC MidAtlantic (Lancaster, Pennsylvania)
Home Builders Association of Metropolitan Portland (Portland, Oregon)
Home Forward (Portland, Oregon)
Home HeadQuarters, Inc. (Syracuse, New York)
Homeless and Housing Coalition of Kentucky (Kentucky)
Homeport Ohio (Columbus, Ohio)
Homes First (Olympia, Washington)
Housing Advocacy Coalition (San Francisco, California)
Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania (Pennsylvania)
Housing Association of Nonprofit Developers (HAND) (Washington, DC)
Housing Authority of Baltimore City (Baltimore, Maryland)
Housing Connector (Seattle, Washington)
Housing Development Consortium of Seattle and King County (Seattle, Washington)
Housing Development Fund (Stamford, Connecticut)
Housing Network of Rhode Island (Rhode Island)
Housing Next (Holland, Michigan)
Idaho Smart Growth (Boise, Idaho)
Indiana Apartment Association (Indiana)
Inlivian (Charlotte, North Carolina)
Intermountain Fair Housing Council (Boise, Idaho)
Isuroon (Minneapolis, Minnesota)
Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc (Ithaca, New York)
Kansas Association of REALTORS® (Kansas)
Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition (Kansas)
King County for Everyone (Seattle, Washington)
Lacasa, Inc. (Indiana)
Lawrence CommunityWorks, Inc. (Lawrence, Massachusetts)
Lexington Habitat for Humanity (Lexington, Kentucky)
Lighthouse MI (Pontiac, Michigan)
Livable Sunnyvale (Sunnyvale, California)
Local First Arizona (Arizona)
Long Island Builders Institute (New York)
Los Angeles Business Council (Los Angeles, California)
Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce (Los Angeles, California)
Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center (Louisiana)
Louisville Apartment Association (Louisville, Kentucky)
Maine Affordable Housing Coalition (Maine)
Manna, Inc. (Washington, DC)
Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish County (Seattle, Washington)

Master Builders Association of Pierce County (Tacoma, Washington)
Metropolitan Economic Development Association (Meda) (Minneapolis, Minnesota)
Miami-Dade County Department of Public Housing & Community Development (Miami, Florida)
Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless (Minnesota)
Minnesota Housing Partnership (Minnesota)
Mountain View YIMBY (Mountain View, California)
Multifamily NW (Portland, Oregon)
NAIOP Arizona (Arizona)
NAIOP Nashville (Nashville, Tennessee)
NAIOP Pittsburgh (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania)
NAIOP Washington State (Washington)
Napa for New Neighbors (Napa, California)
NARI MN (Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota)
NC REALTORS® (North Carolina)
Neighborhood Development Services, Inc. (Ravenna, Ohio)
Neighborhood Housing Services of Baltimore (Baltimore, Maryland)
Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater Berks, Inc. (Reading, Pennsylvania)
Neighborhood Housing Services of Hamilton, Inc. (Hamilton, Ohio)
Neighbors for More Neighbors (Minneapolis, Minnesota)
Neighbors for More Neighbors Ann Arbor (Ann Arbor, Michigan)
Neighbors for More Neighbors Metro Atlanta (Atlanta, Georgia)
Neighbors Helping Neighbors (Brooklyn, New York)
NeighborWorks Alliance of New York State (New York)
NeighborWorks Collaborative of Ohio (Ohio)
NeighborWorks Laredo (Laredo, Texas)
NeighborWorks Lincoln (Lincoln, Nebraska)
NeighborWorks of Western Vermont (West Rutland, Vermont)
NeighborWorks Orange County (Orange, California)
NeighborWorks Western Pennsylvania (Pennsylvania)
New York State Association for Affordable Housing (New York)
North Carolina Home Builders Association (North Carolina)
Northern Neighbors (San Francisco, California)
Northern Ohio Apartment Association (Cleveland, Ohio)
Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance (Northern Virginia)
Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance (Northern Virginia)
Northwest Pilot Project (Portland, Oregon)
Oakland Chamber of Commerce (Oakland, California)
One SouthCoast Chamber (New Bedford, Massachusetts)
Open New York (New York, New York)
Oregon Association of REALTORS® (Oregon)
Oregon Smart Growth (Oregon)
Orlando YIMBY (Orlando, Florida)
Palo Alto YIMBY (Palo Alto, California)
Peninsula Community Federal Credit Union (Shelton, Washington)
Peninsula for Everyone (Mountain View, California)
Pennsylvania Association of Realtors® (Pennsylvania)
People for Housing Orange County (Orange County, California)
Pillsbury United Communities (Minneapolis, Minnesota)
Portland Business Alliance (Portland, Oregon)

Portland: Neighbors Welcome (Portland, Oregon)
Prosperity Indiana (Indiana)
REACH CDC (Portland, Oregon)
Real Estate Council of Austin (Austin, Texas)
Regional Plan Association (RPA) (New York, New York)
Reno + Sparks Chamber of Commerce (Reno, Nevada)
RUPCO, Inc. (Kingston, New York)
San Diego Housing Commission (San Diego, California)
San Francisco Bay Area Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR) (San Francisco, California)
San Francisco YIMBY (San Francisco, California)
Santa Cruz YIMBY (Santa Cruz, California)
Save the Family Foundation of Arizona (Arizona)
Seattle 2030 District (Seattle, Washington)
Seattle for Everyone (Seattle, Washington)
Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce (Seattle, Washington)
Sightline Institute (Seattle, Washington)
Southside Forward (San Francisco)
South Bay YIMBY (San Jose, California)
Southwest Fair Housing Council (Arizona)
Streets for People (San Francisco, California)
St. Mary Development Corp. (Dayton, Ohio)
TechEquity Collaborative (San Francisco, California)
Tejano Center for Community Concerns (Houston, Texas)
Tenderloin Housing Clinic (San Francisco, California)
Texas Apartment Association (Texas)
The 2030 Group (Washington, DC)
Urban Environmentalists (California)
Urban Homeworks (Minneapolis, Minnesota)
Urban Land Conservancy (Denver, Colorado)
Ventura County YIMBY (Ventura, California)
Virginia Apartment Management Association (Virginia)
Virginia Housing Alliance (Virginia)
Vision Long Island (Northport, New York)
Walkable Princeton (Princeton, New Jersey)
Washington Multi-Family Housing Association (Washington)
Welcome Home Coalition (Portland, Oregon)
YIMBY Denver (Denver, Colorado)
YIMBY Durham (Durham, North Carolina)
YIMBY Law (San Francisco, California)

CC: The Honorable Marcia Fudge, Secretary of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development
The Honorable Chuck Schumer, United States Senate Majority Leader
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, United States Senate Minority Leader
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Sherrod Brown, Chairman of the United States Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs
The Honorable Patrick Toomey, Ranking Member of the United States Senate Committee on

Sens. Schatz and Young

Reps. Kilmer, Hollingsworth, Axne, Meeks, Case, Quigley, Torres, Taylor, Fitzpatrick, Foxx, and Herrera Beutler

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Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs

The Honorable Maxine Waters, Chair of the United States House Committee on Financial Services

The Honorable Patrick McHenry, Ranking Member of the United States House Committee on
Financial Services