



August 13, 2020

The Honorable Mike Crapo
Chairman
Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and
Urban Affairs
534 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, District of Columbia 20510

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and
Urban Affairs
534 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, District of Columbia 20510

The Honorable Maxine Waters
Chairwoman
House Financial Services Committee
2129 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, District of Columbia 20515

The Honorable Patrick McHenry
Ranking Member
House Financial Services Committee
4340 O'Neill House Office Building
Washington, District of Columbia 20024

The Honorable David Perdue
Chairman
Senate Housing, Transportation, and
Community Development Subcommittee
534 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, District of Columbia 20510

The Honorable Robert Menendez
Ranking Member
Senate Housing, Transportation, and
Community Development Subcommittee
534 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, District of Columbia 20510

The Honorable Lacy Clay
Chairman
House Subcommittee on Housing, Community
Development, and Insurance
2129 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, District of Columbia 20515

The Honorable Steve Stivers
Ranking Member
House Subcommittee on Housing, Community
Development, and Insurance
4340 O'Neill House Office Building
Washington, District of Columbia 20024

Dear Chairman Crapo, Ranking Member Brown, Chairwoman Waters, Ranking Member
McHenry, Chairman Perdue, Ranking Member Menendez, Chairman Clay, and Ranking
Member Stivers:

The COVID-19 pandemic has upended our economy posing delays and cancellations for many
industries. Housing is one sector experiencing various disruptions and this is especially true for
affordable housing. As states and localities aim to support affordable housing, projects continue
to be impacted by the ongoing effects of COVID-19.

The Housing Trust Fund (HTF) is the only federal program dedicated to the development and
preservation of housing units for extremely low and very low-income individuals and families.
Since 2016, HTF has contributed to producing affordable units in each state, Puerto Rico, and the

District of Columbia. Program resources compliment other state and federal funds including the HOME program, and oftentimes serve as gap financing to complete projects.

As directed in statute ([Section 4568 of PL 110-289](#) - (c)(10)(B)), HTF funds must adhere to a two-year commitment deadline. HUD is required to recapture any uncommitted funds past the deadline as well as funds which become uncommitted after the deadline. The agency has no ability to waive this statutory provision.

A suspension of the commitment deadline is needed at this time. Due to market interruptions caused by the pandemic, housing development has slowed throughout the country. Potential projects are becoming more difficult to identify and grantees face heightened risk of losing uncommitted HTF funds moving forward. COSCDA requests legislative action as a part of the forthcoming COVID-19 emergency relief bill suspending the program's commitment deadline for both allocated and future funds in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022.

COSCDA is available if you need additional information on this important issue. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dianne E. Taylor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "T".

Dianne E. Taylor
Executive Director