

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 23, 2024

The Honorable Janet Yellen
Secretary
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20220

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

Ms. Lael Brainard
Director
National Economic Council
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20502

Ms. Shalanda Young
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Secretary Yellen, Secretary Fudge, Director Brainard, and Director Young:

We write to urge you to permanently extend the Federal Financing Bank Risk-Sharing (FFB Risk-Sharing) program, which has proven to be a productive, efficient tool in the Biden Administration's Housing Supply Action Plan.

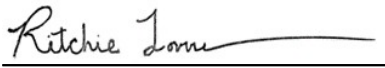
As you know, FFB Risk-Sharing is a joint Treasury and Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) program that was created in 2014 to close a funding gap in the private markets and stimulate greater affordable housing production. Although the program temporarily lapsed from 2019 to 2021, FFB Risk-Sharing has closed or committed \$4.9 billion in loans to help Housing Finance Agencies finance 42,000 units. In short, the program has been highly successful – fully justifying the Administration's decision to restart it in 2021.

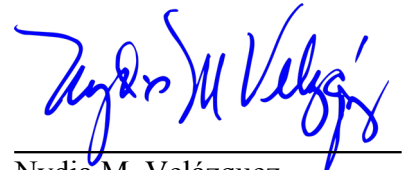
Unfortunately, FFB Risk-Sharing is set to close for new applications after September 30th, 2024, which would eliminate a critical source of low-cost capital for affordable housing developers. Our nation continues to face a severe affordable housing shortage – the National Low Income Housing Coalition estimates the U.S. is short 7.3 million units affordable and available for the lowest income Americans – and losing this critical funding stream will make closing our housing gap even more difficult.


We were delighted, however, that Secretary Fudge endorsed extending FFB Risk-Sharing at a House Financial Services Committee hearing on January 11th. As such, we urge you to permanently extend the FFB Risk-Sharing program to help create and preserve more affordable housing, while also continuing to fuel economic activity and job creation in communities around the country.


Thank you for your consideration of this pressing issue. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your teams to help ensure all Americans have a safe, decent home they can afford.


Sincerely,



Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress


Jack Reed
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator


Sherrod Brown
United States Senator


Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator


Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator


John Fetterman
United States Senator



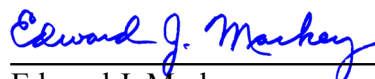
Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator




Peter Welch
United States Senator



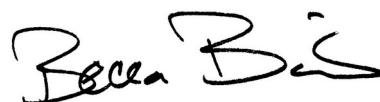
Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



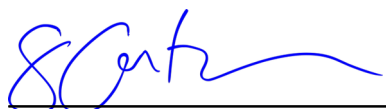
Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



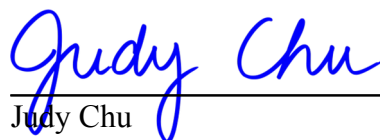
Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress



Becca Balint
Member of Congress



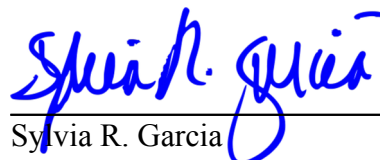
Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



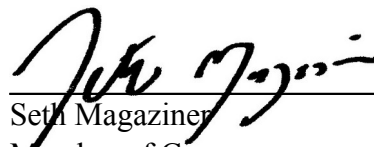
Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Teresa Leger Fernández
Member of Congress



Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



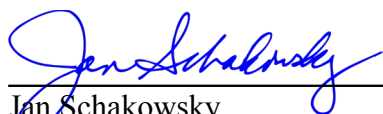
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress