

October 1, 2023

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## Chief Executive Officer

Rachel Heller

Her Excellency Maura Healey Governor of the Commonwealth State House, Room 280 Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Healey:

Last month, the House-Senate Conference Committee reached consensus on a final tax relief bill. We are pleased that the legislation includes a provision to expand the state Low Income Housing Tax Credit, a critical program for affordable housing production and preservation. We urge you to sign the bill to make this additional funding available to help support the development of affordable housing in Massachusetts.

The tax relief legislation before you provides an opportunity to increase investment in the financing of affordable housing. It will raise the authorization cap on the State Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) by \$20 million to \$60 million per year and make the program permanent. This increase will support an additional 10-15 developments, representing between 600-900 affordable new homes each year under the current capital budget.

Created in 1999, the Massachusetts LIHTC program supports public private partnerships to help build affordable housing by leveraging private investment through awarding state tax credits to investors in affordable multifamily rental projects. The state LIHTC has successfully supported the production of more than 25,000 homes, including 21,547 affordable apartments and 4,000 market rate apartments across the Commonwealth. With these tools, we can create more homes for people who need them while preventing displacement and promoting fair housing for all.

The extension and reauthorization of LIHTC is a critically important priority for Massachusetts and we urge you to act quickly to ensure that this program is best positioned to expand affordable housing in our state.

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Housing is the single best investment we can make for the future of Massachusetts. The Commonwealth needs 200,000 new homes by 2030 to stabilize home prices and rents. To ensure new housing production grows for people across income levels, 40,000 of these new homes must be affordable for people with moderate incomes and 20,000 of these homes must be affordable for people with extremely low incomes. Investing state resources in affordable housing will ensure that new housing is produced for people with low incomes.

We can act on equitable housing policies to support long-term stability and prosperity for all Massachusetts residents. The individuals and organizations listed below believe strongly that the production and preservation of housing that is affordable to low- and moderate-income families and individuals is key to fostering diverse and sustainable communities. We urge you to sign the tax relief bill and to help the Commonwealth take an important step toward ensuring that everyone can have a safe and affordable place to live.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Rashel Heller

Chief Executive Officer Citizens' Housing and Planning Association

On behalf of: **2Life Communities** Acton Housing Authority Adbar Ethiopian Women's Alliance AdLib. Inc. Amenta Emma Architects **Amherst's Community Connections** Andover Community Trust Asian Community Development Corporation **Bashorun Descendants Foundation** Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority Berkshire Housing Development Corporation **Boston Tenant Coalition Brookline Community Development Corporation Brookline Housing Authority Cambridge Housing Authority** 

**Capstone Communities LLC** Centro de Apoyo Familiar **Codman Square NDC Commonwealth Community Developers Disability Policy Consortium Domus Incorporated Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation DS Development LLC** E3 Development LLC Engine 6 -Newton Housing Advocates Fall River Joint Tenant Council Father Bill's & MainSpring Fenway Community Development Corporation First Resource Development Co FORWARD - Friends Or Relatives With Autism & Related Disabilities Franklin County Continuing the Political Revolution Harborlight Homes Henry Joseph & Associates Holliston Youth and Family Services Home City Development, Inc. Housing Corporation of Arlington **Housing Families** Housing Greenfield Housing Medford Housing NOW Partnership Housing Partners, Inc. **Island Housing Trust** Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action Iust A Start Katjana Ballantyne, Mayor City of Somerville Lawrence Community Works Inc. Lazarus House Ministries LDS Consulting Group, LLC Lexington Housing Authority LIEBSTUDIOS Lincoln Avenue Communities Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance (MAHA) Massachusetts Assisted Living Association Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless Massachusetts Housing Investment Corporation (MHIC) Merrimack Valley Housing Partnership Metropolitan Area Planning Council

MetroWest Center for Independent Living Munkenbeck Consulting NAACP Berkshire Branch Needham Housing Coalition Neighbor 2 Neighbor **NeighborWorks Housing Solutions** New Ecology, Inc. NewVue Communities Nina-Soto Realty Neighborhood of Affordable Housing, Inc. (NOAH) Nolan Sheehan Patten LLP **OneHolvoke CDC** Perci PBC Preservation of Affordable Housing (POAH) Princeton Properties Development Inc. Pro-Home, Inc. Progressive Newton Quincy Community Action Programs, Inc. Rebuilding Together Boston **Rethinking Power Management LLC** Revitalize Community Development Corporation **Rogerson Communities Rural Development Inc** Small House Inc. Somerville Community Corporation Somerville Office of Housing Stability South Boston NDC Southeast Center for Independent Living The Caleb Group The Neighborhood Developers **Trinity Financial UHM** Properties Urban Edge Veterans Benefits Clearinghouse Development Corporation VIVA Consulting Way Finders Western Massachusetts Network to End Homelessness