

December 5, 2023

The Honorable Sherrod Brown, Chairman
U.S. Committee on Banking, Housing and
Urban Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tim Scott, Ranking Member
U.S. Committee on Banking, Housing and
Urban Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick McHenry, Chairman
House Financial Services Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Maxine Waters, Ranking
Member
House Financial Services Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 220515

Dear Chair Brown, Ranking Member Scott, Chair McHenry, Ranking Member Waters:

The undersigned national associations represent for-profit and non-profit owners, operators, developers, lenders, property managers, housing agencies, housing cooperatives and advocacy organizations involved in the provision and promotion of housing, both affordable and conventional. We are writing to express our strong support for the bipartisan Yes in My Backyard Act (YIMBY) as introduced by Senators Brian Schatz (D-HI) and Todd Young (S. 1688) and Congressmen Mike Flood (R-NE) and Derek Kilmer (D-WA) (H.R. 3507). We urge your support for this legislation, and for committee consideration as soon as possible.

America is facing a housing affordability crisis. While challenges are different from city to city and state to state, housing affordability is a nationwide problem. For decades, America has witnessed the escalating challenge created by demographic shifts, lack of development, and economic changes culminating in the inability of families to rent, buy, or maintain stable, affordable, and safe homes. Underproduction of housing is also a persistent and nationwide problem, leading to a supply and demand imbalance across the country.

The YIMBY Act would help to eliminate discriminatory land use policies and remove barriers that depress production of housing in the United States. By requiring Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) recipients to report periodically on the extent to which they are removing discriminatory land use policies, and promoting inclusive and affordable housing, it will increase transparency and encourage more thoughtful and inclusive development practices.

Housing affordability is a national problem that demands the attention of federal policymakers. The YIMBY Act is an important step to help mitigate this crisis.

Sincerely,

American Planning Association

Council for Affordable and Rural Housing
Habitat for Humanity International
Institute of Real Estate Management
Leading Builders of America
Manufactured Housing Institute
Mortgage Bankers Association
National Affordable Housing Management Association
National Apartment Association
National Association of Homebuilders
National Association of Housing Cooperatives
National Association of Realtors
National Association of Residential Property Managers
National Leased Housing Association
National Low Income Housing Coalition
National Multifamily Housing Council
The Real Estate Roundtable
Up For Growth

Cc: Members of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee
Members of the House Financial Services Committee