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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

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October 17, 2012

## Via Electronic Transmission

The Honorable Robert Menendez  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation,  
and Community Development  
Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jim W. DeMint  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation,  
and Community Development  
Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Menendez and Ranking Member DeMint:

Since March 15, 2010, I have been investigating the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). During those two years I have been writing to HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan regarding concerns about waste, fraud, and abuse of taxpayer money by Public Housing Authorities (PHAs). Many of those letters have gone unanswered, and I ask for your help to receive responses from HUD. I have attached copies of the most recent correspondence for your review.

Many PHAs continue to receive funding despite having a long track record of such problems. Over the weekend the *Boston Globe* reported on numerous issues that plague PHAs in Massachusetts, and I have attached the article for your review. These problems have been found at PHAs large and small across the country. Most recently, I have raised concerns about HUD conference spending, PHA take-home vehicle abuses and the need for greater transparency of PHA executive director compensation packages.

Given your responsibilities as Chairman and Ranking Member of the Housing, Transportation, and Community Development Subcommittee with jurisdiction over HUD programs, **I'm** seeking your help. These issues need to be investigated thoroughly, and it is your **subcommittee's responsibility** to ensure that tax dollars meant to provide housing to the poor are not further wasted or diverted to other purposes. Ultimately, it is the residents of public housing who are being cheated and abused as a result of this mismanagement.

Thank you for your prompt attention to these important issues.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley  
Ranking Member

Attachments