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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

BRUCE A. COHEN, *Chief Counsel and Staff Director*
KOLAN L. DAVIS, *Republican Chief Counsel and Staff Director*

October 17, 2012

Via Electronic Transmission

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing,
and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan M. Collins
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing
and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Murray and Ranking Member Collins:

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 Appropriations Subcommittee with jurisdiction over HUD funding, **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