



GREATER NEW ORLEANS HOUSING ALLIANCE

Alembic Community Development Alliance for Affordable Energy
 A Shared Initiative, Inc.
 Associated Neighborhood Development
 Broadmoor Improvement Association
 Capital One
 Center for Planning Excellence
 Committee for a Better New Orleans
 Crescent Care
 Crescent City Community Land Trust
 The Data Center
 Enterprise Community Partners
 Finance Authority of New Orleans
 First NBC Bank
 Foundation for Louisiana
 GCR Inc.
 Global Green USA
 Greater New Orleans Foundation
 Green Coast Enterprises
 Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center
 Greater New Orleans, Inc.
 Gulf Coast Housing Partnership
 Harmony Neighborhood Development
 Healthy Start New Orleans
 Housing Authority of New Orleans
 Iberia Bank
 Jericho Road Episcopal Housing Initiative
 Jerusalem Economic Development Corp.
 JPMorgan Chase Bank
 LA Association of Affordable Housing Providers
 Louisiana Appleseed
 Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations
 Louisiana Homebuyer Education Collaborative
 Louisiana Housing Alliance
 Louisiana Housing Corporation
 Lowernine.org
 Lower 9th Ward Homeownership Association
 Lower 9th Ward NENA
 Make It Right
 Neighborhood Assistance Corporation of America
 Neighborhood Development Foundation
 Neighborhood Housing Services
 NEWCITY
 New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity
 New Orleans Redevelopment Authority
 NO/AIDS Task Force
 Northshore Housing Initiative
 Office of Housing Policy & Community Development
 Operation Comeback
 Perez, APC
 Pontchartrain Park CDC
 Practitioners Leveraging Assets for Community Engagement
 Preservation Resource Center
 Project Home Again
 Project Homecoming
 Providence Community Housing
 Puentes New Orleans
 Rebuilding Together New Orleans
 Redmellon
 Renaissance Neighborhood Development Corp.
 Renaissance Property Group
 Service Providers and Professionals Association
 Southern United Neighborhoods
 St. Bernard Project
 Tulane/Canal Neighborhood Development Corp.
 UNITY of Greater New Orleans
 Urban Focus
 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
 Volunteers of America
 Wells Fargo
 Whitney Bank
 Whodata.org

19 February 2016

Senator Karen Carter Peterson
 1409 Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard
 Suite C
 New Orleans, LA 70113

Dear Senator,

The Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance (GNOHA), is a collaborative of affordable housing developers, builders, advocates, businesspeople, educators, and local policymakers working diligently to preserve and create affordable housing in the Greater New Orleans region. Our membership would strongly urge you to exercise your influence as an elected official by representing the most vulnerable in your constituency. To put the need for more affordable housing into perspective, consider that over 70% of New Orleans households are cost-burdened, paying more than one third or more of their income towards housing costs.

It's very clear to the Louisiana community that generating revenue is crucial to addressing this looming budget crisis. As an organization that represents hundreds of people working in the area of housing, we ask that you do everything in your power to make sure **State dollars for affordable housing aren't depleted** in your efforts to combat this crisis.

Funding for housing the most vulnerable populations, seniors, people with disabilities, veterans, low-wage workers and low-income families, is already quite limited, and we have been battling a crisis of our own in this industry for years as the dollars continue to shrink. In particular, we ask that you protect the nonprofit tax exemption for construction materials (Revised Statute 47:305:59), which is vital to the continued success of our developer organizations.

This collaborative process of preserving and building a healthier state of housing must transcend politics if we are to address the glaring housing inequities that existed both before Katrina and today.

We welcome further discussion on the matter, so please don't hesitate to contact me at (504) 915-4905 or amorris@gnoha.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Andreanecia M. Morris

President/Chair, GNOHA Board of Governors