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June 16, 2011

The Honorable Robert Menendez
U.S. Senate
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Menendez,

I am pleased to inform you that the National Affordable Housing Management Association (NAHMA) supports S. 624, the Choice Neighborhoods Authorization Act of 2011. The bill expands the HOPE VI program beyond public housing by including assisted and private distressed housing as eligible projects for funding and allowing public, private, and non-profit partners to become eligible grant recipients.

NAHMA's mission is to promote development and preservation of quality affordable multifamily housing by advancing legislative and regulatory policy, and preparing affordable housing professionals to succeed in evolving economic and political environments. Our members are property owners and managers, industry stakeholders, and providers of goods and services to the affordable housing industry.

The Choice Neighborhoods Authorization Act is a positive step forward in the Federal government's community revitalization. Our members are very interested in using the tools provided by the Obama Administration's Choice Neighborhoods Initiative and S. 624 to revitalize local neighborhoods with extreme poverty.

Thank you for your leadership on this important matter. Please let us know how we can be of further assistance in moving the legislation forward. We look forward to continuing our work with you on affordable rental housing issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristina Cook".

Kristina Cook, CAE
Executive Director