



400 North Columbus Street, Suite 203
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 683-8630
(703) 683-8634 FAX
www.nahma.org

March 25, 2011

The Honorable Elton Gallegly
U.S. House of Representatives
2309 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Gallegly:

I am pleased to inform you that the National Affordable Housing Management Association (NAHMA) strongly supports H.R. 201, the Removing Reward for Section 8 Fraud Act of 2011. This bill amends Section 12 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 to close a loophole in the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998 that allows families who commit welfare fraud to receive lower Project-Based Section 8 rents.

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. NAHMA's members are property owners and managers, industry stakeholders, and providers of goods and services to the affordable housing industry.

NAHMA feels the legislation provides common sense reform through fixing an apparent oversight in the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998. Specifically, H.R. 201 would bring the assisted housing rules in line with those for public housing and voucher recipients, which prevents residents who are caught defrauding government welfare programs from benefiting in rental assistance programs.

However, our members are concerned that the legislation, while well intentioned, may result in additional administrative and financial burdens on the owners and agents of Project-Based Section 8 properties. Therefore, we would request an amendment to the bill clarifying that Project-Based Section 8 property owners would not be responsible for monitoring tenants' compliance with any work requirements under government welfare programs.

Please let us know how we can be of further assistance in moving the legislation forward. Thank you for your leadership on this important matter. 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