Statement by the National Foreclosure Prevention and Neighborhood Stabilization Task Force

Task Force Requests $2.25 Billion in Neighborhood Stabilization Funds to be Included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Dear Senators:

The Neighborhood Stabilization Program is a vital tool that provides economic stability to communities suffering from high rates of foreclosure. With approximately 2 million foreclosures across the country in 2008 and more than 2 million expected in each 2009 and 2010, additional funds that can quickly get our communities back on track are needed now more than ever.

We ask that no less than $2.25 billion for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program be included in H.R. 1 to help state, county and city efforts to meet the overwhelming and growing need to rehabilitate vacant and foreclosed properties and to resuscitate our communities.

Thanks to the funding provided in the HERA bill, many communities across the country have already created partnerships amongst the state, local, for-profit and non-profit levels and are bringing vacant foreclosed properties and the surrounding areas back to life. While those funds already appropriated will help jurisdictions rehabilitate approximately 90,000 properties, there are an additional 90,000 properties that fall into foreclosure every single month. These foreclosure numbers will only continue to grow.

We estimate that this funding will help communities hit hard by foreclosures to purchase and rehabilitate an additional 57,000 properties. Those properties will:

• Create more than 45,000 jobs;
• Pay approximately $94 million in property taxes annually;
• Generate an additional $4.83 billion in economic activity nationwide; and
• Save localities nearly $568 million in costs ranging from trash removal, grass cutting, and boarding up vacant properties to more serious problems of vandalism, increased property and personal crime rates and arson.

In addition, H.R. 1 includes tenant protection language that would extend the amount of time before an owner may require tenants to vacate if they are living in a foreclosed property that has been purchased with NSP funds. The inclusion of this language in the Senate version of H.R. 1 is crucial and would protect many working families from abrupt and unanticipated eviction and could potentially diminish the expected increase in homelessness in many communities.

As the foreclosure crisis and larger economic crisis expand, families and the communities in which they live urgently need these resources to create solutions that will put them back on solid ground.

Sincerely,
National Foreclosure Prevention and Neighborhood Stabilization Task Force

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**The following members have signed on to the above letter:**

Center for American Progress Action Fund  
City of Bath, Maine  
Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.  
Greater Metropolitan Housing Corporation (Minnesota)  
Habitat for Humanity International  
Housing Assistance Council  
Housing Partnership Network  
Interfaith Housing Alliance, Inc.  
Local Initiatives Support Corporation  
Low Income Investment Fund  
Mercy Housing  
Miami – Dade County  
National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations  
National Association for County Community and Economic Development  
National Association of Affordable Housing Lenders  
National Association of Counties  
National Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies  
National Community Land Trust Network  
National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development  
National Community Reinvestment Coalition  
National Council of La Raza  
National Housing Conference  
National Housing Institute  
National League of Cities  
National Low Income Housing Coalition  
National NeighborWorks Association  
National Vacant Properties Campaign  
NCB Capital Impact  
New Jersey Community Capital  
North Carolina Community Development Initiative  
Policy Link  
Rebuilding Together  
Self – Help  
Sioux Empire Housing Partnership  
Wisconsin Partnership for Housing Development, Inc.