## October 18, 2023

The Honorable Charles Schumer Senate Majority Leader United States Senate Washington, DC 20510 The Honorable Mitch McConnell Senate Minority Leader United States Senate Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray Chair, Committee on Appropriations United States Senate Washington, DC 20510 The Honorable Susan Collins Vice Chair, Committee on Appropriations United States Senate Washington, DC 20510

Re: Oppose Rubio Amendment #1237 to H.R. 4366 (minibus appropriations bill)

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chair Murray and Vice Chair Collins:

The undersigned organizations urge Senators to oppose Rubio Amendment #1237 "To prohibit the use of funds to implement the final rule regarding energy efficiency standards for certain subsidized housing."

In May 2023, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) released a "preliminary determination" to update the energy requirements for new federally supported homes. HUD and USDA found that adopting the proposed energy code, which the Rubio Amendment would cancel, saves an average of \$14,536 in energy bills over the life of a single-family home, and over \$5,000 in energy bills per multifamily unit compared to their current requirements. The bipartisan 2007 Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) requires HUD and USDA to periodically update these requirements, but the agencies have failed to update them since 2015. In August, 160 organizations and thousands of individuals submitted comments to HUD and USDA in support of the proposed update.

Rubio #1237 would raise the total cost of living for families who are most sensitive to rising prices through higher and more volatile energy bills. Without the new energy standards, low-income households will unnecessarily endure decades of higher energy bills and homes that are less safe in the face of extreme heat and cold. Low-income households already bear significant energy cost burdens compared to higher income households, and this amendment will exacerbate these inequities.

The cost of the requirements is only 2% of the average cost of a new home under their programs, paying for itself in less than 3 years on average. When amortized in a mortgage, these costs will generally be lower than the monthly energy savings, and will reduce the need for far more costly energy retrofits in the future.

## For these reasons, the undersigned groups strongly oppose Rubio #1237 and urge you to vote no.

Sincerely,

American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE)

National Consumer Law Center (on behalf of its low-income clients)

National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO)

Greenbank Associates

Southern Environmental Law Center

**Enterprise Community Partners** 

Americans for Financial Reform

Minnesota Housing Partnership

Network for Oregon Affordable Housing (NOAH)

Housing Assistance Council (HAC)

Institute for Market Transformation (IMT)

Moscow Affordable Housing Trust

Fauquier Habitat for Humanity

Community Action Commission of Fayette County

come dream. come build. (cdcb)

National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders (NALCAB)

**EPS Industry Alliance** 

New Buildings Institute (NBI)

North American Insulation Manufacturers Association

Insulation Contractors Association (ICAA)

Spray Polyurethane Foam Alliance

Cellulose Insulation Manufacturers Association

Structural Insulated Panel Association (SIPA)

Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association

WE ACT for Environmental Justice

California Efficiency + Demand Management Council

U.S. Green Building Council

Earthjustice

Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP)

**NRDC** 

350.org

RMI

Evergreen

Sierra Club

**Rewiring America** 

Earth Advantage

Dream.Org

Elevate

The Passive House Network

New York Geothermal Energy Organization/NY-GEO

New Yorkers for Clean Power