

**Submission to the
U.S. House of Representatives
Ways and Means Committee
Tax Reform Working Group on Real Estate
From Fair Housing and Civil Rights Advocates**

April 25, 2013 Hearing on Tax Reform and Residential Real Estate

May 9, 2013

Re: Continuation and Expansion of the Low Income Housing Tax Credit

Dear Members of the Working Group:

Thank you for this opportunity to supplement the record of the April 25, 2013 hearing on Tax Reform and Residential Real Estate.

As fair housing and civil rights advocates we strongly support the continuation and expansion of the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) as a central and essential part of our nation's affordable housing strategy. A national commitment to decent and safe housing for low income families has been a part of our national policy for over 60 years. Today, creation and preservation of high quality affordable housing in safe and viable communities is a lynchpin in efforts to expand housing opportunity for low income families, particularly those who have historically been subject to discrimination and exclusion from access to the opportunity that good affordable housing in safe and viable communities provides.

The LIHTC has demonstrated that it can provide housing opportunities to low income families in a wide range of neighborhoods across cities, suburbs, and rural areas. The LIHTC can give low income children access to high performing schools and safe, neighborhoods and give all families access to the security that having a place to call "home" provides. The nation should not retrench from the important commitment that the LIHTC represents, and the access to opportunity it provides.

We urge the Committee to preserve and strengthen the Low Income Housing Tax Credit, to ensure that it reaches our lowest income families, and provides them with housing choices in a wide range of communities.

Sincerely,

American Civil Liberties Union
Washington, DC

Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
Washington, DC

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
Washington, DC

NAACP
Washington, DC

National Fair Housing Alliance
Washington, DC

National Housing Law Project
San Francisco, CA

Poverty & Race Research Action Council
Washington, DC

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