

Date: September 14, 2019

Subject: Veterans Housing

The Honorable, Mark Takano, Chairman

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Dear Sir,

The Pasco County Housing Authority is the recipient of Federal Funds through the Department of Housing and Urban Development. We receive VASH Vouchers that are specifically for Veterans. Housing for Veterans and others is extremely hard to come by. The PCHA recently purchased property to build approximately 78 units of Veterans family housing and mental health housing. While one would think progress has not been made and there is an extreme lack of affordable housing stock in our area. In the case of the PCHA we tried to get financed before to build the new community however banks would not lend to the PCHA. Even though the VA and HUD approved project basing VASH vouchers which virtually guarantees the property would be successful.

We have met resistance at every level. This is based on the low funding from HUD through the Federal Budget and our balance sheet. Housing Authorities are designed by nature to have a very slim margin. We have been able to cobble together approximately two million dollars in funding and we are seeking a legislative budget request for two million more and banks will approve funding and we can begin construction on a new community.

We respectfully request the federal government create a regulation and a funding stream that gives enough capital to obtain financing from private banks or federally back loans specifically to build Veterans and mental health housing

Respectfully,

David B. Lambert

Chairman

Pasco County Housing Authority

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