



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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June 27, 2007

The Honorable Barney Frank, Chair
House Financial Services Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: National Housing Trust Fund

Dear Chairman Frank:

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) supports legislation establishing a National Affordable Housing Trust Fund for the production of new housing and the preservation or rehabilitation of existing housing that is affordable for people with low incomes. The ELCA particularly appreciates the laudable goal to produce, rehabilitate, and preserve 1,500,000 units of housing over the next 10 years.

The ELCA works closely with Lutheran Services in America (LSA) to establish equitable housing policy, promote affordable housing and serve low-income families through direct service, advocacy, and education. We are concerned about the increasing crisis in affordable housing as well as the reality of homelessness across the country. In this context, we thank you all the more for your leadership in realizing a National Housing Trust Fund as an important step in addressing the shortage of affordable housing in the United States.

The ELCA is a national church body of approximately 4.8 million members gathering in 10,389 congregations. Through our national advocacy office and network of 19 state offices, the ELCA advocates from our scriptural mandate as Christians with and for people living in poverty and struggling with hunger, for care of creation, and for reconciliation among nations.

Thank you for your leadership in and commitment to this important issue. If the ELCA can be of further assistance, please contact Andrew Genszler at Andrew.genszler@elca.org or 202.626.7935.

Sincerely,

Andrew Genszler
Director for Advocacy
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America