



March 2, 2020

Speaker Nancy Pelosi  
House of Representatives  
H-232, the Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
House of Representatives  
H-222, the Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the more than 80,000 combined members of the National Multifamily Housing Council (NMHC) and the National Apartment Association (NAA), we are writing to express our strong support for H.R. 4351, the Yes in My Backyard (YIMBY) Act sponsored by Rep. Heck (D-WA) and Rep. Hollingsworth (R-IN). The YIMBY Act aims to remove barriers to housing development and will help address the nation's housing affordability crisis and we urge your support.

NMHC and NAA members represent over ten million apartment homes and a \$1.3 trillion economic impact nationwide. For more than 20 years, NMHC and NAA have partnered on behalf of America's apartment industry and provide a single voice for developers, owners and operators of multifamily rental housing. One-third of all Americans rent their housing and 39 million of them live in an apartment home.

Recent NMHC and NAA research finds that we need to build 4.6 million new apartments by 2030 to meet the nation's housing needs. Yet our industry faces significant barriers to new apartment construction, development and renovation. Rising costs and regulatory burdens at all levels of government depress apartment development and rehabilitation nationwide. The most significant barriers are often imposed by state and local governments. Incentives are needed for government at all levels to remove barriers to apartment development and streamline regulatory burdens.

The YIMBY Act would help to eliminate discriminatory land use policies and remove barriers that depress production of housing in the United States. By requiring Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) recipients to report periodically on the extent to which they are removing discriminatory land use policies, and promoting inclusive and affordable housing, it will increase transparency and encourage more thoughtful and inclusive development practices.

Housing affordability is a national problem that demands the attention of federal policymakers. The YIMBY Act is an important step to help mitigate this crisis. Again, NMHC and NAA support passage of the YIMBY Act and look forward to continuing our work with Congress to meet our nation's housing needs.

Sincerely,

Douglas M. Bibby  
President  
National Multifamily Housing Council

Robert Pinnegar  
President & CEO  
National Apartment Association

cc: U.S. House of Representatives Members