November 16, 2015

The Honorable Bill Shuster
The Honorable John Duncan, Jr
The Honorable Sam Graves
The Honorable Candice Miller
The Honorable Rick Crawford
The Honorable Lou Barletta
The Honorable Blake Farenthold
The Honorable Bob Gibbs
The Honorable Jeff Denham
The Honorable Reid Ribble
The Honorable Scott Perry
The Honorable Rob Woodall
The Honorable John Katko
The Honorable Brian Babin
The Honorable Cresent Hardy
The Honorable Garret Graves

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton
The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
The Honorable Corrine Brown
The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
The Honorable Elijah Cummings
The Honorable Rick Larsen
The Honorable Michael Capuano
The Honorable Grace Napolitano
The Honorable Daniel Lipinski
The Honorable Steve Cohen
The Honorable Albio Sires

The Honorable Jim Inhofe
The Honorable John Thune
The Honorable Orrin Hatch
The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
The Honorable Deb Fischer
The Honorable John Barrasso
The Honorable John Cornyn

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
The Honorable Sherrod Brown
The Honorable Bill Nelson
The Honorable Ron Wyden
The Honorable Dick Durbin
The Honorable Charles Schumer

Dear Conferee:

The National Multifamily Housing Council (NMHC) and National Apartment Association (NAA) applaud your leadership in passing the transportation bill and urge your support of the Hensarling amendment contained in H.R. 22, the DRIVE Act. Of special significance to our members are those elements of the amendment dealing with improvements to the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) rental housing programs.

For more than 20 years, the National Multifamily Housing Council (NMHC) and the National Apartment Association (NAA) have partnered in a joint legislative program to provide a single voice for America’s apartment industry. Our combined memberships are engaged in all aspects of the apartment industry, including ownership, development, management and finance. NMHC represents the principal officers of the apartment industry’s largest and most prominent firms. As a federation of nearly 170 state and local affiliates, NAA is comprised of over 69,000 members representing more than 8.1 million apartment homes throughout the United States and Canada.

NMHC/NAA strongly support the reforms included in the Hensarling amendment. We support the changes that simplify income verifications in H.R. 233, the “Tenant Income Verification Relief Act,” allowing Section 8 residents on fixed incomes to have their incomes
certified once every three years versus annually. Additionally, we support **H.R. 2482**, the “**Preservation, Enhancement and Savings Opportunity Act of 2015.**” legislation that ensures continued preservation of affordable housing by making technical changes to the Low Income Housing Preservation and Resident Homeownership Act of 1990.

Finally, we want to express our thanks for incorporating **H.R. 2997**, the “**Private Investment in Housing Act**” in the Hensarling amendment. This language creates an energy demonstration program for affordable multifamily properties administered through HUD.

Professional apartment owners and managers, in partnership with housing program administrators, have made great strides in helping low-income families find quality affordable rental housing through HUD’s assisted housing programs. We urge the conferees to agree to the common sense reforms included in the Hensarling amendment.

Sincerely,

Douglas M. Bibby
President
National Multifamily Housing Council

Douglas S. Culkin, CAE
President & CEO
National Apartment Association