

October 7, 2021

The Honorable Richard Neal
Chairman
House Ways and Means Committee
House of Representatives
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Neal:

On behalf of Opportunity Finance Network (OFN), a community development financial institutions (CDFI) membership organization, I am writing to thank you for including provisions to support CDFIs and the communities we serve in the House Ways & Means Committee's reconciliation bill.

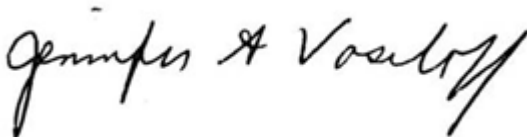
For nearly 40 years, CDFIs have provided access to capital where it is needed most: CDFI customers are 84 percent low-income, 60 percent people of color, 50 percent women and 26 percent rural.

I am pleased to see the Committee advance legislation that will help build strong, resilient communities. In particular, OFN strongly supports making the New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) program permanent and the provisions that index its current allocation amount of \$5 billion to inflation beginning in 2024, providing an additional \$3 billion to support the economic recovery through 2023, and allocates \$175 million for Tribal Statistical Areas to support Native communities.

We are also supportive of provisions that will address the critical need for more affordable housing like the proposed modifications to the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) and the Neighborhood Homes Investment Act (NHIA), a new tax credit to help build and renovate homes for affordable homeownership.

Thank you again for prioritizing underserved communities in your legislation. We strongly encourage you to maintain these provisions throughout the negotiation process to a final reconciliation bill. Please reach out with any questions or if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,



Jennifer A. Vasiloff
Chief External Affairs Officer