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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510 - 3505

June 2, 2014

Ms. Sandra B. Henriquez
Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20410

Dear Assistant Secretary Henriquez:

I am writing in support of the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority's (CMHA) Choice Neighborhood Implementation application. CMHA was recently named one of the six Choice Neighborhoods Implementation grant finalists for the FY 2013 funding cycle.

Since 2010, CMHA has partnered with The Ohio State University and the City of Columbus to form the Partners Achieving Community Transformation (PACT) initiative, which is devoted to promoting economic development, community safety, health, education, and quality housing in the Near East Side. CMHA has drawn on these relationships with these partners and with residents to develop a comprehensive revitalization plan for Columbus's Near East Side neighborhood. PACT has worked with community stakeholders, local businesses, and outside advisors to develop the Near East Side Blueprint to guide its long-term community revitalization plan.

Poindexter Village, a deteriorating public housing site, was at the center of PACT's revitalization plan. PACT plans to replace Poindexter Village with high-quality, mixed-income housing that will serve up to 350 families and more than 100 seniors and create a more stable community for area businesses and schools. With the help of Urban Strategies and Columbus City Schools, PACT will also help area residents of all ages access the education, child care, job training, and healthcare they need. Finally, the group will create a complete neighborhood with the investment of local businesses and access to vital services, from a fire station to community centers.

CMHA's Blueprint is the product of extensive community collaboration and could reshape the lives of residents of this struggling Columbus neighborhood. As you choose among the finalists for the FY 2013 Choice Neighborhoods Implementation grants, I urge you to carefully examine the many stakeholders committed to the Near East Side neighborhood's revitalization and to strongly consider CMHA's grant application.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator