United States House of Representatives Committee on Financial Services 2129 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

March 3, 2025

The Honorable Scott Turner Secretary U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 451 7th St SW Washington, DC 20410

Dear Secretary Turner:

We write in response to recent actions affecting the operations of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under your leadership, alongside the Department of Government Efficiency ("DOGE"). As our nation faces one of the worst housing and homelessness crises in history, HUD's role in addressing this crisis is more critical now than ever.

Today, housing inflation is the number one contributor to the rising cost of living. ¹ Each month, when families pay their rent or mortgage, what is left in their monthly budget afterwards often determines whether they can afford groceries to feed themselves, gas to get to school or work, life-saving medications and healthcare, or savings to invest in a small business, education, or retirement. ² Meanwhile, housing costs continue to outpace wages, and we are seeing more evictions, more homelessness, stifled homeownership activity, and more cost-burdened households. ³ In fact, last year, despite lowering veteran homelessness to its lowest rate ever recorded, there were still more than 771,000 people experiencing homelessness across the U.S. ⁴ In light of these existing trends, plans to terminate HUD staff across the country, freeze HUD funding which makes up less than 1% of all federal spending, as well as the decision to "[go] after" the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) rule by repealing it altogether and halt fair housing enforcement efforts under the Equal Access Rule, are cause for deep concern about the future of fair and affordable housing in this great nation. ⁵

Just as concerning is that several individuals from DOGE who we understand to be currently stationed at HUD, including Scott Langmack and Michael Mirski, come from the very industries that stand to gain from the dismantling of the federal government's role in housing and consumer protections, and the path that creates for greater housing market consolidation and profiteering at the expense of families. For example, Scott Langmack is Chief Operating Officer of Kunkun, which is a property technology (PropTech) startup that provides artificial intelligence (AI) services, such as automated valuation models (AVMs), to the real estate market. Discrimination and bias in home appraisals, including AVMs, have been a major topic of concern in housing with studies showing that homes in predominately White neighborhoods are valued two times higher than those

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, Nearly Half of Renter Households Are Cost-Burdened, Proportions Differ by Race (Sep. 12, 2024).

² Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies, *The Rent Eats First: Rental Housing Unaffordability in the US* (Jan. 2021).

³ NPR, HUD, <u>The 2024 AnnuU.S. home prices have far outpaced paychecks. See what it looks like where you live</u> (2024); See also Eviction Lab, <u>Preliminary Analysis: Eviction Filing Patterns in 2023</u> (Apr. 22, 2024); See also <u>al Homelessness Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress</u> (Dec. 2024)

⁴ HUD, *The 2024 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress* (Dec. 2024).

⁵ Financial Services Committee, Ranking Member Waters Applauds Federal Judge for Blocking Illegal and Cruel Republican Funding Freeze that Threatens Housing Assistance, Homelessness Programs, and Community Development (Jan. 29, 2025); See also AP News, Trump administration looks to slash HUD workers tackling the housing crisis (Feb. 21, 2025); See also Charlie Kirk interview (Feb. 11, 2025); See also HUD, Secretary Scott Turner Halts Enforcement Actions of HUD's Gender Identity Rule (Feb. 10, 2025).

in Black neighborhoods.⁶ Michael Mirski is Managing Member of TCC Asset Management LLC, which is an unregistered private fund that purchases and consolidates manufactured housing communities as well as RV parks. In recent years, private investors have increasingly been purchasing manufactured housing communities and raising pad lease rents, threatening the affordability of these homes once referred to as "naturally occurring" affordable housing due to their affordability in the absence of subsidy.⁷

Given the effects that HUD and DOGE's actions are expected to have on the agency's mission and operations, we ask that you provide the following information by Friday, March 14, 2025:

- 1. a list of meetings you have taken to date as Secretary of HUD, including dates when each meeting was held and meeting attendees;
- 2. a list of names of Schedule C and Schedule F employees at HUD, including the names of any staff and advisers of DOGE that have been provided with access to agency facilities, staff, records, or information;
- 3. a list of names of HUD employees, along with their job titles, who have been terminated since January 20, 2025, including a copy of HUD and DOGE's charts and other documents reflecting staff reduction plans by program office and further disaggregated by field office and DC headquarters;
- 4. a copy of any written communications from HUD or DOGE to HUD staff, including field offices, directing a change, pause, or halt to work, including investigations;
- 5. a list of contracts, grant or loan agreements, or funding opportunities that HUD or DOGE have identified for potential pause, delay, or cancellation, or that have already been paused, delayed, or cancelled; and
- 6. a list of names of private equity firms, real estate-related companies, or housing-related organizations where anyone hired or brought on after January 20, 2025, including as part of DOGE, currently or previously worked, and whether such entities received payments or financial assistance through funding or loans administered by HUD, the Federal Housing Administration, or Ginnie Mae.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this urgent matter and look forward to your timely response. Please contact Alia Fierro (alia.fierro@mail.house.gov), Director of Housing and Insurance, with any questions.

Sincerely,

Maxine Waters

Ranking Member, Committee on

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Financial Services

Hakeem Jeffri<mark>es</mark>

Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress

⁶ Urban Institute, <u>Pursuing Housing Justice: Interventions for Impact</u> (May 24, 2023); See also Urban Institute, <u>What Role Can Property Condition</u> <u>Data and Artificial Intelligence Modeling Play in Understanding AVM Error?</u> (Jun. 15, 2022).

⁷ Private Equity Stakeholder Project, <u>Private Equity Giants Converge on Manufactured Homes: How Private Equity Is Manufacturing Homelessness & Communities Are Fighting Back</u> (Feb. 2019).

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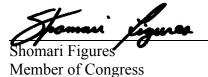
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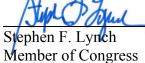
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Juan Vargas Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable French Hill, Chair, House Committee on Financial Services