

Dear Senators Hatch & Lee,

We, the undersigned, are very disappointed that out of only seven senators to vote for the elimination of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) *both* of Utah's Senators were among them. We agree and support HUD's mission of creating quality affordable homes for all, and ask you to reevaluate your positions.

The news of your votes is especially disappointing given the current economic climate. With high foreclosure rates and high unemployment Utahns are struggling, and housing costs are the biggest expense for most households. In Utah:

- One in ten homeowners and one in five renters spend *more than half* of their income on housing.
- The housing inventory in Utah is currently not affordable to all with an estimated 31,000 unit shortfall in available affordable housing.
- In the January point-in-time count 14,351 individuals were homeless this past year.
- Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a two-bedroom apartment is \$769. In Utah, a minimum wage worker earns an hourly wage of \$7.25. In order to afford FMR that worker must work 82 hours per week, 52 weeks per year.

The solution to these problems is funding for affordable housing, which the Department of Housing and Urban Development provides through the programs it administers. We want to remind you that affordable housing creates jobs, adds to the local tax base, increases family stability, and reduces health, education, and transportation costs.

Senator Hatch and Senator Lee, we ask you to explain your views on affordable housing, and your vote to eliminate the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Please join us for a town hall meeting to discuss how we as a state can work toward safe, affordable and decent housing for all.

Sincerely,