May 12, 2017

Council of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Council of the District of Columbia,

We the undersigned are Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) investing and operating in Washington, D.C. We ask that you support the Community Impact Investment Tax Credit Act of 2017, which is an opportunity for the District to attract new private investment that will create and preserve affordable homes for its residents.

CDFIs are private mission-based financial institutions which are certified by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, and this legislation leverages our proven ability to bring together diverse public and private sector investors to create economic opportunity for low-income communities. As an industry, CDFIs have more than three decades of experience investing in small businesses and high-impact community real estate – affordable homes, schools, health clinics, grocery stores, and more.

Many of the undersigned CDFIs are linchpins for successful housing preservation through the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act, trusted lenders through the District’s Site Acquisition Funding Initiative, and partners of equity-building initiatives like the 11th Street Bridge Project. Collectively, we have invested approximately $1 billion in the District to support communities in all eight wards.

The Community Impact Investment Tax Credit Act of 2017 is modeled on a successful program in South Carolina, which utilizes the expertise of CDFIs as financial intermediaries to raise and place private capital into underserved communities. For example, a CDFI-sponsored impact investment fund, Our Region, Your Investment, raised $11 million in 2016 from local investors to preserve nearly 300 affordable apartments.

This credit does not replace other important affordable housing programs; it’s another tool that can be used to increase private investment. It has the potential to bring more investors to the table, and that means more private capital will be available to address the District’s housing crisis.

Sincerely,

Building Hope
Capital Impact Partners
City First Bank
City First Enterprises
Enterprise Community Loan Fund
Institute for Community Economics
National Housing Trust Community Development Fund
NeighborWorks Capital Corporation
Partners for the Common Good
Self-Help

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