



Green & Healthy Homes Initiative®

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April 8, 2021

Secretary Marcia L. Fudge  
U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development  
451 7<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20410

Re: Ending Childhood Lead Poisoning and Creating Healthy Housing

Dear Secretary Fudge:

On behalf of the Board and staff of the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative, congratulations on your appointment as the 18th Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. We are heartened and hopeful with your appointment.

I write to you today at this critical point in time as President Biden is moving forward on the American Jobs Plan which we believe creates a once in a lifetime opportunity to address one of the most important drivers of the social determinants of health, opportunity and racial equity – ending lead poisoning. There can be no greater investment in the future of children living in under-resourced communities, especially communities of color, than investing at scale in the eradication of the toxic legacy of lead in our nation's housing stock. To that end, I am requesting to meet with you to discuss the efforts of the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI) and its strategic actions to end this costly, tragic, yet preventable problem.

It is critical that the President's American Jobs Plan distinctly articulates investments at scale to address lead poisoning prevention and the creation of healthy, lead-safe and energy efficient homes. GHHI and its national partners have put together a clear and thoughtful plan to eradicate lead hazards in housing and dramatically bolster healthy housing in America. The Biden Administration's commitment to health and racial equity affords the opportunity to foster meaningful, community-driven jobs to eliminate lead hazards, make homes healthy, safe and energy efficient and deliver a better, healthier and more equitable future for all children.

The President has proposed a \$45 billion investment to replace lead service lines, which we strongly support. However, the biggest source of lead poisoning is from lead-based paint and its toxic lead dust. If we simply carved out \$45 billion for lead-based paint remediation as well, we would, by HUD's estimates, create 3,750,000 lead safe homes and, by our estimates, create 46,800 meaningful community-based jobs on an annual basis.

According to the HUD American Healthy Housing Survey in 2011, there were estimated to be 12 million families with incomes of less than \$35,000 a year living in homes with imminent lead hazard exposure. With HUD's estimate of \$12,000 per unit to address lead hazards, the need in under-resourced communities is \$170 billion. Without a doubt, we must take this moment in time to address this issue, and HUD has the leadership, capacity, and partnerships in place to make this happen.

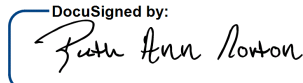
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In addition to the national lead elimination plan, we would like to share a number of transformational GHHI healthy housing projects that serve as national models, such as a \$50 million hospital community benefit investment by Penn Medicine in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania; the multimillion dollar State of Michigan Lead Fund; and the recently announced partnership between ProMedica and GHHI to address the social determinants of health through investments in healthier housing in seven US cities (Baltimore, Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Toledo).

Proposed attendees for the meeting would be Joy Thomas Moore, our Board Chair; and Board members Doug Nelson, former President and CEO of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and Michael McAfee, CEO of Policy Link, and Bart Harvey, former CEO of the Enterprise Foundation.

We look forward to meeting with you on these pivotal opportunities to reverse the injustices of the past and create healthier housing and opportunities for our children and families living in under-resourced communities.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Ruth Ann Norton  
President and CEO