



September 24, 2019

The Honorable Denny Heck  
2452 Rayburn House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Trey Hollingsworth  
1641 Longworth House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Quigley  
2458 Rayburn House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jaime Herrera Beutler  
2352 Rayburn House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lacy Clay  
2428 Rayburn House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Virginia Foxx  
2462 Rayburn House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Heck, Hollingsworth, Quigley, Herrera Beutler, Clay and Foxx,

We write you today in support of H.R. 4351, the *Yes in My Backyard, or YIMBY, Act*. Like its counterpart in the Senate, the *YIMBY Act* encourages communities to eliminate discriminatory land use policies and remove barriers that prevent the production of needed housing in communities throughout the United States. It gives the federal government, through the Department of Housing and Urban Development, a constructive role to play in solving the housing shortage and affordability crisis.

The *YIMBY Act* requires Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) recipients to report the extent to which they are implementing specific pro-affordability and anti-discriminatory housing policies. Rather than dictating to local governments the policies that they should implement, The *YIMBY Act* will create a reporting requirement under the existing Consolidated Plan Reporting that would require localities to publicly detail policies that they are implementing pursuant to a specified list of options.

Introduction of the *YIMBY Act* comes at a critical time in the debate over housing affordability and availability. According to Up for Growth's 2018 report *Housing Underproduction in the U.S.*, the country failed to produce 7.3 million homes between 2000 and 2015. This shortage of homes means families pay more rent and face unnecessary barriers to jobs and amenities. Nearly half of the country's renter households are cost burdened negatively impacting household budgets and preventing communities from achieving their desired economic potential.

Recognizing and eliminating exclusionary policies - zoning and density restrictions, onerous parking requirements, and other regulations - is an important first step in decreasing barriers to housing. The *YIMBY Act* will help communities recognize their own agency in the housing shortage and provide them with a framework for smarter policymaking.

The bipartisan sponsorship of this bill demonstrates the congress' commitment to innovative solutions to improve the lives of American families. Thank you for your continued commitment to housing and to the introduction of the *YIMBY Act*. We look forward to working with you both to address one of the root causes of the housing crisis in the U.S.

Sincerely,

American Planning Association  
Habitat for Humanity International  
Housing Advisory Group  
Leading Builders of America  
Mortgage Bankers Association  
National Apartment Association  
National Association of REALTORS®  
National Multifamily Housing Council  
Prosperity Now  
Smart Growth America  
Up for Growth Action