May 30, 2019

Congressman Adrian Smith

1811 West Second Street, Suite 275

Grand Island NE 68803

Dear Congressman Smith,

My name is XXXXXX, and I am one of your constituents living in [insert name of community]. I am committed to expanding housing affordability because [insert personal perspective]. As participants in NLIHC’s *Our Homes, Our Voices* National Housing Week of Action, we encourage you to commit to investing in affordable housing solutions.

A safe, decent, accessible, and affordable home is the building block to happiness and success in all other areas of life, but there is a shortage of affordable rental housing in your district and in every community around the country. This shortage slows economic growth, drives up healthcare costs, and traps families and communities in poverty. Across Nebraska, there is a shortage of rental homes affordable and available to extremely low-income households (ELI), whose incomes are at or below the poverty guideline. Many of these households are severely cost burdened, spending more than half of their 9income on housing. Severely cost burdened poor households are more likely than other renters to sacrifice other necessities like healthy food and healthcare to pay the rent, and to experience unstable housing situations like evictions. Nearly a quarter of Nebraska renter households fall within the ELI category.

Additional federal resources are needed to fully address the need and restore funding to previous levels. We ask that you please reject any proposed cuts to housing benefits and harmful shutdowns, and instead work with your colleagues to lift the spending caps and increase investments in HUD and USDA Rural Development programs to ensure everyone has a safe, decent, accessible, and affordable home.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [insert email] or [address] any time.

Sincerely,

[insert name]