



WASHINGTON BUREAU · NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
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October 26, 2005

Members
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

via fax

**URGENT!
VOTE TODAY!**

RE: H.R. 1461, THE "FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE REFORM ACT OF 2005": VOTE NO ON THE MANAGER'S AMENDMENT, WHICH INCLUDES PROVISIONS TO PROHIBIT NON-PARTISAN VOTER EMPOWERMENT AND VOTE YES ON FRANK MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Dear Representative;

On behalf of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), our nation's oldest, largest and most widely-recognized grassroots civil rights organization, I am writing today to urge you to oppose the manager's amendment, to be offered by Congressman Oxley (R-OH) and, in the event the manager's amendment is accepted, to support the motion to recommit to be offered by Congressman Frank (D-MA). At stake is the possible voter disenfranchisement of millions of low income, disproportionately ethnic and racial minority Americans.

Specifically, within the manager's amendment is an ill-advised and extremely divisive provision that would disqualify any non-profit organization from participating in this fund if the groups have engaged in non-partisan voter registration, get-out-the-vote, or other, non-partisan activities within the last 12 months. Under this ill-conceived idea, non-profit organizations would not be able to use their own funds to conduct non-partisan voter education and registration activities if they participated in the Affordable Housing Fund, which is created by the legislation.

Given that half of all African Americans live in unaffordable, inadequate and/or crowded housing raises, this proposal sends the wrong message to them and, quite frankly, to all Americans. By providing low-income and extremely low-income Americans with the tools to become active, educated and enfranchised members of our society, we would be helping to improve our communities and our nation as a whole.

The establishment of an Affordable Housing Fund is an admirable goal, and one that is long over-due. Yet the restrictions that are being proposed that would curb the non-partisan citizenship building activities of the groups that are in a prime

position to best administer the fund are divisive and, quite simply, anti-democratic policy. Thus I urge you to do all you can to see that they do not become law.

Thank you in advance for your attention to the NAACP position on this matter. Should you have any additional questions or comments, I hope that you will feel free to contact me at (202) 463-2940.

Sincerely,



Hilary O. Shelton
Director