



May 5, 2020

The Honorable Mike Crapo
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing,
and Urban Affairs
534 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing,
and Urban Affairs
534 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Crapo and Ranking Member Brown,

On behalf of the manufactured housing industry, the Manufactured Housing Institute (MHI) enthusiastically supports the nomination of Mrs. Dana Wade to be Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Federal Housing Commissioner. MHI believes that Mrs. Wade is an ideal choice for this critical position, and we urge you to move her confirmation process forward.

MHI is the only national trade association that represents every segment of the factory-built housing industry. Our members include builders, suppliers, retail sellers, lenders, installers, community owners, community managers, and others who serve our industry, as well as 49 affiliated state organizations. Today, approximately 22 million people live in manufactured homes. In 2019, our industry produced close to 95,000 homes, which accounted for approximately 10 percent of new single-family home starts. Today, MHI represents almost 85 percent of all manufactured homes produced.

Mrs. Wade has extensive experience successfully furthering our nation's housing policy, including an understanding about the importance of innovative building methods in addressing affordable housing supply challenges. During her service as Acting Federal Housing Commissioner and Assistant Secretary for Housing at HUD from July 2017 to June 2018, she effectively and diligently carried out the Department's housing mission. MHI appreciates her leading role in the Department's responsibilities regarding manufactured housing, overseeing HUD's reorganization of the Office of Manufactured Housing Programs and its comprehensive review of manufactured housing regulations. After leaving HUD, she served as Program Associate Director for General Government at the Office of Management and Budget where she oversaw HUD's budget, among other duties. Further, she served as the Deputy Staff Director of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs under Chairman Richard Shelby (R-AL), who represents a state where manufactured housing is an important source of affordable housing (17 percent of occupied housing units) and where there are 15 manufactured home building facilities.

Mrs. Wade's experience from important vantage points of federal housing policy gives her the perspective needed to successfully lead the Office of Housing and FHA at this critical time in our nation's history, when strains are being placed on our federal housing support programs like never before. We have no doubt that Mrs. Wade's effective and steady leadership will help ensure HUD is positioned well to meet the housing needs of Americans struggling from the fallout of the COVID-19 emergency.

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Without question, Mrs. Wade is the right person to lead the Office of Housing and the FHA at this unprecedented time. We appreciate the Committee's ongoing support for manufactured housing and strongly urge swift confirmation of Mrs. Wade to this critical position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesli Gooch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lesli Gooch, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer