

NEW HAMPSHIRE Manufactured Housing Association

P.O. Box 451

Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0451

May 14, 2020

Director Gerald Little
Chair Chuck Morse
Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery
One Eagle Square
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Director Little and Chair Morse:

The NH Manufactured Housing Association (NHMHA) is writing to share with you our support for funding emergency rental assistance to support the New Hampshire households who are threatened with severe housing instability due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The NHMHA is the trade association for manufactured housing in New Hampshire. Our membership is comprised of manufactured housing community owners/operators, retailers, manufacturers, and licensed manufactured housing installers. The manufactured housing industry provides homes for approximately 7% of New Hampshire families.

Our membership recognizes the need to support the thousands of renters who have suffered a loss or reduction in income due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and as a result will struggle to pay their rent. As such, we respectfully ask the GOFERR Legislative Advisory Board to consider emergency rental assistance.

We believe that funding an emergency rental assistance program is essential to supporting the health and economic stability of all renters across the state who have been impacted by COVID-19 and to the continued availability of rental housing. Failure to act will not only threaten the stability of our housing finance system, but also imperil thousands of small business and property owners and their employees who live and work in these New Hampshire communities.

Rather than limiting potential funding to a specific sector of housing, we suggest that funds be disbursed to preserve housing stability and prevent homelessness for all renters in need across all rental housing types with specific guidelines that the funds must be used for housing costs.

Director Gerald Little
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As residents are confined to their homes, manufactured housing communities owners/operators have done their best to provide manufactured housing residents flexible rent payment options. In an effort to mitigate the problem, our community owners/operators are waiving late fees and allowing residents to pay as soon as they can. Other communities have been able to implement programs for past due rent to be paid in 12 equal monthly installments without the assessment of late charges. Despite these measures, we are concerned that this flexibility may not be sustainable and may eventually impact the ability of property owners to retain employees and otherwise to provide services to residents.

Members of the NHMHA stand ready to work with GOFERR or a designated administrator of an emergency rental assistance program.

Please feel free to let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Soucy', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Karen Soucy
Executive Director

cc: GOFERR Legislative Advisory Board Members