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February 7, 2008

The Honorable John Kerry
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

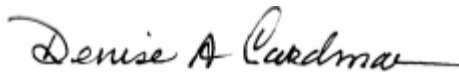
Dear Senator Kerry:

We commend your recent introduction of S. 2523, the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act of 2007. The American Bar Association supports this innovative, long-term approach for the construction, rehabilitation and preservation of affordable housing, particularly its emphasis on the nation's very poor. Your bill would ensure the construction of hundreds of thousands of new affordable housing units, rather than simply providing new rental subsidies in markets where there are few or no affordable units to rent. By creating new units of affordable housing, this legislation would act as a significant first step towards ending homelessness.

We are particularly pleased that your bill is consistent with our three key principles for a National Housing Trust Fund: at least half of all new housing units should be available to people at or below 30% of area median income; the fund should be adequately capitalized to carry out its mission of increasing available affordable housing; and it should not serve as a substitute for, or diminish, other major federal housing programs.

As you know, last year the House passed a similar bill, H.R. 2895, and introduction of your bill follows years of Senate discussions of related proposals. We applaud these developments and hope to work with you and your staff to enact this important legislation during the 110th Congress.

Sincerely,



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Acting Director

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