

# **The Green New Deal for Public Housing Act**

*Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY)*

"Our homes are the foundations for our lives. With the Green New Deal for Public Housing, they will become the foundation for our country's future of economic security and environmental sustainability," **said Dianne Enriquez, co-director of community dignity campaigns at the Center for Popular Democracy.** "This landmark legislation will at once offer job training for public housing residents, create family-sustaining jobs, and revitalize public housing units with green technology. Not only does it provide a pathway toward financial independence for public housing residents, but it also generates opportunities for meaningful participation in the oversight of their housing community. The Green New Deal for Public Housing sets our country on a path of compassionate governance and will help to build a future for our country that includes us all."

"My family's lived in NYCHA housing for over 50 years. We've seen it go from brand-new and beautiful to being starved and neglected. We need a Green New Deal for public housing to deliver the funding needed and respond to the community," **said T. Elzora Cleveland, a member of New York Communities for Change and resident of New York City's Chelsea Houses.**

"Too many families reside in public housing that has been neglected by our country's political leaders for years, forced to choose between living in homes with toxic mold and unreliable heat, or sleeping on the street," **said Varshini Prakash, Executive Director of Sunrise Movement.** "The Green New Deal for Public Housing Act is a tremendous opportunity to ensure everyone has a safe, affordable place to call home, and advances us towards a new era, where the government invests in good, union jobs empowering people to revitalize their own communities – all while combating the climate crisis."

"Our country faces a generational housing crisis while our planet is in the throes of a species-threatening climate crisis. The Green New Deal for Public Housing Act takes on both of those emergencies with the scientific and moral clarity this moment demands," **said Julian Brave NoiseCat, Vice President of Policy & Strategy at Data for Progress.**

"The concerted effort from our government to disinvest in our public institutions over the years has created generational oppression for our most vulnerable communities, including public housing tenants. From toxic lead paint, to mold infestation, to heat and water outages, public housing is facing a humanitarian crisis. The Green New Deal for Public Housing Act is the only solution big and bold enough to resolve the deep issues we face with public housing in America." - **Iona Duverge, co-founder of Movement School**

"The Green New Deal for Public Housing is the comprehensive and visionary answer we've been seeking. As an organization dedicated to housing and environmental justice in the South Bronx, Mothers on the Move (MOM) has long worked with public housing residents to improve their conditions, including advocating for their right to training and hiring promised by HUD under Section 3, but circumvented by NYCHA (New York City Housing Authority.) As our city makes plans for changing climate, public housing

residents are often last on the list, despite being some of the most vulnerable. The Green New Deal for Public Housing includes opportunities for residents to finally gain access to promised jobs, while improving their quality of life and planning for climate resilience. That's why the MOM of the South Bronx enthusiastically endorses this plan." -**Wanda Salamán, Executive Director of Mothers on the Move / Madres en Movimiento**

"This Bill represents the greatest opportunity for low-income people, to receive the true benefits of HUD funded Section 3 projects since the original passing of the HUD Act in 1968. The leveraging of environmental improvements toward economic opportunity has never happened in America. This is truly a first step for future public housing generations to have healthy residences, while participating in the economic windfall as first class beneficiaries thus fulfilling the intended spirit of the Section 3 regulation." - **J. Keith Swiney, President/CEO, Motivation Inc.**

"On behalf of the National Low Income Housing Coalition, I applaud Senator Bernie Sanders and Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio Cortez for their bold, ambitious proposal to not only help preserve America's public housing for current and future residents, but to modernize these homes to 21st century green standards, while also helping to ensure that low-income residents benefit from green job and training opportunities," **stated Diane Yentel, president and CEO of the National Low Income Housing Coalition.** "We must combat the affordable housing crisis and climate change - both of which most harm people of color and people with the lowest incomes - through innovative, holistic and bold visions like the Green New Deal for Public Housing."

"In addition to helping to provide affordable housing for all, this bill will take a vital step in fighting our climate crisis. The Green New Deal for Public Housing Act will retrofit 1.2 million public housing units, providing energy efficiency, electrification, and water quality upgrades for millions of our citizens. It will save them money on their energy bills and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. What's more, it will provide family supporting, union jobs to people living in front line communities. We know energy efficiency is a major part of the fight against the worsening effects of climate change and we proudly support this legislation. We look forward to working with Senator Sanders and Congresswomen Ocasio-Cortez to pass this bill." - **Mitch Jones, Policy Director, Food & Water Watch**

"NHLP supports this act. Senator Sanders has taken the bold and important step to declare that housing a human right; and that the federal government has a duty to provide a safe and affordable home to all those who need it. Further, this bill will use this established right to tackle our climate crisis and stimulate job growth." - **Shamus Roller, Executive Director, National Housing Law Project**

"Housing justice and climate justice are inseparable," said Erich Pica, President of Friends of the Earth. "To adequately respond to the climate crisis, the Green New Deal must transform every sector of our economy, including housing." - **Erich Pica, President of Friends of the Earth-US**

"Everyone deserves to live in a healthy and affordable home, just as every community deserves to live free of pollution and debilitating climate disasters. The Sierra Club is proud to endorse this bold legislation to revitalize public housing, counter racial and economic injustice, build community resilience, slash pollution, and create hundreds of thousands of family-sustaining jobs. This landmark bill would make public housing the vanguard of the movement to upgrade our buildings while honoring the leadership of low-income communities in building a more just, clean energy economy." - **Ben Beachy, Living Economy Director, Sierra Club**

"The Green New Deal for Public Housing Act is excellent public policy. It would help the Biden administration achieve its Justice 40 mandate to center climate investment in disadvantaged communities. It would attack climate change and inequality at the same time, while creating good jobs and improving technologies for the 21st century green buildings economy," **said Daniel Aldana-Cohen, Director of the Socio-Spatial Climate Collaborative, and Co-Director of the climate + community project, at the University of Pennsylvania.**

"We need massive federal investment to transform the nation's public housing into flourishing and resilient communities. By reducing emissions, greening infrastructure, reversing decades of racialized disinvestment, generating hundreds of thousands of jobs and creating a pathway to unionized work for residents, such an investment would tackle multiple crises at once. Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) endorsed this bill because it's a model of the transformative potential of the Green New Deal." - **DSA's Green New Deal Campaign Committee**