

PUBLIC HOUSING GREEN NEW DEAL ACT

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

"As Business Manager of General Building Laborers' Local 79, I welcome the introduction of the Green New Deal For Public Housing. Local 79 has long enjoyed a partnership with the New York City Housing Authority, we are proud to represent construction workers who live, work and have built their lives in these historic developments. This bill recognizes the needs of public housing authority residents for safe and habitable homes, for jobs that support their families and recognizes the need of our country for an environmentally sustainable future. Policies such as this which protect the needs of workers, taxpayers and community should be implemented wherever public funds are spent." - **Mike Prohaska, Business Manager, Construction & General Building Laborers Local 79**

"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 build the political will to combat the affordable housing crisis and climate change – both of which severely harm the lowest-income people, people of color, seniors, people with disabilities, people experiencing homelessness and others – and I thank Senator Sanders and Rep. Ocasio Cortez for their innovative, holistic vision for green affordable housing in America."

"The families who reside in these buildings have been neglected and forgotten 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 Marcela Mulholland, 22, a Sunrise Movement organizer from Fort Lauderdale, FL.** "As a Floridian, I've seen firsthand what happens when buildings and homes crumble and people have nowhere to go. In the face of the climate crisis, it's more important now than ever that elected leaders prioritize affordable housing. The Public Housing Green New Deal is an unprecedented opportunity to ensure everyone has a place to call home, regardless of your skin color, the community you grew up in, or how much money you have."

"The Green New Deal for Public Housing Act is excellent public policy. 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, Senior Fellow, Data for Progress and Director, Socio-Spatial Climate Collaborative at the University of Pennsylvania**

"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.**

"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.”

"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, Climate & Energy Program Director, Food & Water Action**

“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**

“The Sierra Club strongly supports this legislation as a tangible and essential component of the Green New Deal vision. Not only would this bill revitalize public housing to support healthy homes, tackle the climate crisis, and create good jobs -- it would recognize public housing residents as the leaders of this historic task. This bold legislation upholds the core pillars of the Green New Deal by equipping low-income communities to withstand climate-related storms and slash pollution, while bolstering clean manufacturing and family-sustaining livelihoods for workers.” - **Ben Beachy, Sierra Club's Living Economy Director**

"The “Green New Deal for Public Housing Act” is exactly the kind of legislation we need to combat both the climate crisis and economic injustice. Communities living in America’s under-resourced public housing deserve to be centered in our just transition to renewable energy. By investing in energy efficiency upgrades in America's public housing units, we will save energy, reduce carbon pollution and help to create more sustainable homes. We should strive as a nation to make all of our homes zero carbon and this bill is an important first step. It is time to transition off of fossil fuels and put millions to work doing so. We are proud to support the “Green New Deal for Public Housing Act” and look forward to seeing more legislation like it, that makes the goals of the Green New Deal a reality." - **Natalie Mebane, Associate Director of Policy at 350.org**

“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**

“A rapid transition to zero-emissions housing is a key part of the unprecedented mobilization required to prevent the collapse of civilization. And as the climate emergency accelerates, the federal government must provide robust protections and opportunities for the communities that are most vulnerable to the cascading impacts of climate breakdown and inequality. The Green New Deal for Public Housing bill is an important step toward achieving both, with its goals of creating a more sustainable federal public housing system as well as community resilience and dignity.” - **Ezra Silk, Co-Founder and Director of Strategy & Policy of The Climate Mobilization.**

This endorsement is in support of the “Green New Deal For Public Housing Act” which would change the lives of public housing residents and low and extremely low-income persons. I thank Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez for her dedication in strengthening the protections, safety, quality of life and well being of public housing residents. AOC is a thoughtful and compassionate person who listens to, engages with and advocates for all people—she shares my values. This groundbreaking proposed Bill goes further than any other legislation thus far in the 21st century. The “Green New Deal For Public Housing Act” will expand the Section 3 programs, which would provide public housing residents with opportunities that would lead to financial independence. Again, much appreciate your allowing me to sit at the table and be a voice in this most critical regulation that will empower and advance the lives of public housing residents and low and very low-income persons. - **Loraine Brown, 334 East 92nd Street Tenant Association, President Emerita; Manhattan Community Board 8, Chair of Census 2020 Task Force.**

"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**

“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.**

“We applaud Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez for releasing this bold Green New Deal for Public Housing, which sets its sights on both the climate emergency and the affordable housing crisis facing our communities,” said **Javier H. Valdés, Co-Executive Director of Make the Road New York.**

“Weatherizing, electrifying, and modernizing public housing across the country will be a win-win for our communities and the planet.”

“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**

Congress must act now to solve both the housing and climate change crises -- and, if they are to be effective, lawmakers will use these issues as opportunities to put Americans to work,” said **Allen Spears, National Director of the Elevator Industry Work Preservation Fund (EIWPF)**. “The Green New Deal For Public Housing Act” would transition U.S. public housing into energy-efficient developments. This legislation provides viable solutions to our nation’s public housing and environmental woes -- and ensures any jobs associated with the effort to modernize public housing are supported by strong wage and safety standards. On behalf of the more than 23,000 hardworking men and women that participate in our labor-management fund, we see this legislation as a win for the residents of public housing and the workers in those communities -- the well-paying jobs it will create and support will empower not only current, but also future generations of workers.”