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April 22, 2021

The Honorable Marcia L. Fudge
Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20410

Dear Secretary Fudge,

I write in support of the application submitted by the Washington County Association for Retarded Citizens (WCARC) to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly Program. If awarded, as the project sponsor and developer, WCARC will renovate St. Croix Apartments to provide housing for low-income seniors.

WCARC recently acquired the St. Croix Street Apartments, a 26-unit apartment complex located in Calais, Maine, from a previous owner who has lost HUD assistance for the complex due to poor management. Originally built at the turn of the last century, the facility has been expanded and is now comprised of four separate structures linked by hallways to create one building. In 1978, the building was redeveloped using HUD support to create low-income senior housing. Calais is the largest city in Washington County with a population of roughly 3,000 residents. Twenty-six percent of the population is 62 years of age or older, and twenty-one percent of those over 60 live at or below the federal poverty level.

If funded, St. Croix Apartments will be renovated to once again provide housing for seniors of very low income (equal to or less than 50 percent of Area Median Income). WCARC will own the building through a to-be-formed wholly owned subsidiary, St. Croix Apartments, Inc., a 501(c)3 organization. Sunrise Opportunities, the co-applicant, will manage the project and will also provide services as necessary to meet the needs of the residents. WCARC's commitment to identify and utilize additional outside funding sources for this project will benefit the project and support the efficient use of federal resources.

I request HUD's careful consideration of this application, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, and ask you to please notify me or have your staff call when a final decision has been made.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator