

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 15, 2021

The Honorable Marcia Fudge  
Secretary of Housing and Urban Development  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
451 Seventh Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20410-1000

Dear Secretary Marcia Fudge,

We write to express our concerns of a recent investigation, conducted by NPR, which showed that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) had historically sold homes disproportionately located in flood-prone places, with a focus on three targeted states of Louisiana, Florida, and New Jersey. With the recovery and rebuild of Ida still on the forefront of our Nation's mind, this article is of grave concern.

The investigation highlights the sale of approximately 100,000 homes between January 2017 and August 2020. Among those homes sold, NPR's research emphasized that these homes were 75 times more likely be sold in a federally designated flood zone versus homes sold nationwide. It goes on to indicate in many cases, buyers of HUD homes received less information regarding flood risk and the cost of flood insurance. Furthermore, the homes were sold disproportionately in areas of lower socioeconomic status.

Knowing that the data was taken before the current administration, coupled with the administration's commitment to addressing issues like environmental justice and equitable treatment, we are hopeful that these issues can be addressed as we continue to mitigate the increasing impacts of climate change. We request answers to the following questions.

- What are the exact number of homes, from January 2017 to September 2021, that HUD has sold that are in flood prone areas?
- What steps is HUD taking to disclose to potential homebuyers that homes under HUD are in flood prone areas and at risk of flooding?
- Will HUD communicate to all homeowners who bought homes through HUD during the time period of the investigation that their home is in a flood prone area?

- What additional action/resources will HUD provide to those who have bought these homes in flood prone areas?

We respectfully request responses to these questions by October 1<sup>st</sup>. We thank you again for your time and look forward to hearing and working with you soon on this important matter.

Sincerely,



BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN  
Member of Congress

/s/  
ALMA S. ADAMS, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress

/s/  
EARL BLUMENAUER  
Member of Congress

/s/  
JAMAAL BOWMAN, Ed.D.  
Member of Congress

/s/  
CORI BUSH  
Member of Congress

/s/  
DEBBIE DINGELL  
Member of Congress

/s/  
ADRIANO ESPAILLAT  
Member of Congress

/s/  
DWIGHT EVANS  
Member of Congress

/s/  
AL LAWSON  
Member of Congress

/s/  
BARBARA LEE  
Member of Congress

/s/  
JERRY MCNERNEY  
Member of Congress

/s/  
DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.  
Member of Congress

/s/  
MIKIE SHERRILL  
Member of Congress

/s/  
RASHIDA TLAIB  
Member of Congress

/s/  
DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ  
Member of Congress

/s/  
FREDERICA S. WILSON  
Member of Congress