



June 14, 2019

A Shared Initiative
AIA New Orleans
Alembic Community Development
Alliance for Affordable Energy
Bike Easy
Blueprint Investment Fund
Capital One Bank
Celestin Development Corporation
Center for Planning Excellence
(CPEX)
Delaney & Delaney, LLP
Desire Community Housing Corp
Downtown Development District
Enterprise Community Partners
Family Resources of New Orleans
Greater New Orleans Fair Housing
Action Center
Hancock Whitney Bank
Home By Hand
Iris Development Company
Jane Place Neighborhood
Sustainability Initiative
Jefferson Community Action
Programs (JeffCAP)
Jericho Road Episcopal Housing
Initiative
Louisiana Appleseed
Louvis Services
Lower 9th Ward Homeowners
Association
Lowernine.org
Metairie Bank
Neighborhood Development
Foundation
New Orleans Redevelopment
Authority
NewCorp, Inc.
PCA Development, LLC
Perez, A Professional Corporation
PosiGen
Preservation Resource Center
Providence Community Housing
Renaissance Neighborhood
Development Corporation
REO, LLC
SBP, Inc.
The Albert & Tina Small Center for
Collaborative Design
The Finance Authority of New
Orleans (FANO)
The Power Coalition for Equity and
Justice
The Urban Conservancy
Tulane/Canal Neighborhood
Development Corporation (T/CNDC)
Ulrich Consulting
University of New Orleans
Department of Planning and Urban
Studies (UNO-PLUS)
Urban Focus
Webre Consulting, LLC
Wells Fargo Advisors
Youth Rebuilding New Orleans

The Honorable Eric Skrmetta
The Honorable Craig Greene
The Honorable Lambert C. Boissiere, III
The Honorable Mike Francis
The Honorable Foster L. Campbell

Louisiana Public Utilities Commission
Galvez Building, 12th Floor
602 North Fifth Street PO Box 91154
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Dear Commissioners,

The Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance (GNOHA) appreciates that the Louisiana Public Service Commission is considering the development of financial incentives for the promotion of energy efficiency by jurisdictional electric and gas utilities (Docket R-31106), and we write to ask that the Commission support increased investments in and attention to energy efficiency that reaches affordable and multifamily housing.

GNOHA is a collaborative of non-profit housing builders and community development corporations working to rebuild the housing stock available in the city of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina devastated the city's infrastructure. Since its creation in 2007, GNOHA has sought to create change in the Greater New Orleans community through public policy advocacy and public education. The collaborative advocates for the preservation and production of affordable housing for people within the Greater New Orleans metropolitan region and places a special emphasis on the needs of the most vulnerable in society - seniors, people with disabilities, veterans, low-wage workers and low-income families.

Our developers and CDC's are affordable housing providers committed to energy efficiency as a cost-effective way to maintain affordable housing and provide healthier, more comfortable homes for residents. Energy efficiency can support low- and moderate-income residents living in multi-family properties through utility-sponsored energy efficiency programs.

New Orleans has one of the highest energy burdens in the country, meaning that residents must dedicate a large portion of their income to their monthly energy bills. With 50% of New Orleans residents being cost-burdened and some spending upwards of 20% of their income on utility bills, energy efficiency is a vital solution to addressing the affordable housing crisis.

Our City Council recently passed a resolution to get Entergy New Orleans to report whole building energy usage to building owners that are interested, and we are working to get a ordinance passed requiring building owners to report that data. This will help inspire competition and hopefully lead to our city being less dependent on excess energy and more energy efficient.

Energy efficiency is a broad and complicated concept and our housing stock and climate issues demand resources to create the best possible solutions, not only in our city but across the state. While many developers can and do access incentives to meet energy efficiency goals, many more cannot, particularly in rural communities like St. John the Baptist and Plaquemines Parish. We hope that the LPSC will work with utility providers to develop financial incentives for energy efficiency programs across the state.

We welcome an opportunity to work with you and your offices to explore the program experience of utilities in Louisiana and other states. We stand ready to assist you as you explore this important matter to assure Louisiana residents benefit from energy efficiency.

If you have questions, please contact 504-224-8300 or amorris@gnoha.org.

Sincerely,



Andreanecia M. Morris,
President/Chairwoman