

Exempting HUD-Funded Developments from BABA

On December 16 and 17, the House Financial Services Committee has scheduled a markup of housing and financial services legislation. Among the proposals being considered is a bill from Housing and Insurance Subcommittee Chair Mike Flood (R-NE) that would exempt HUD and USDA-funded developments from Build America Buy America (BABA) mandates. Inclusion of this legislation in the housing bill that the Financial Services Committee puts out is key to realizing relief from practical and administrative costs of BABA.

Two members of the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation, Stephen Lynch and Ayanna Pressley, are members of the House Financial Services Committee and need to hear from those of us in Massachusetts who support Chair Flood's bill.

You can send emails to the relevant staffers in each office:

- Mariana Osorio, Legislative Assistant for Congressman Lynch:
Mariana.Osorio@mail.house.gov
- Demarquin Johnson, Legislative Director for Congresswoman Pressley: Demarquin.Johnson@mail.house.gov

Please feel free to personalize your email with your own experiences, but here are talking points that may be helpful:

- Massachusetts needs 222,000 new homes over the next ten years to stabilize our rental and housing markets.
- BABA is a significant barrier to creating these homes.

- This is not a matter of undercutting American businesses: A range of components needed in the construction of housing are either not available from US manufacturers or are not available in the numbers necessary to meet demand.
- Some of these components include elevators, heat pumps, energy recovery ventilators, door hardware, fire alarm systems, FOBs, control panels, siding, and low U-Value windows. (Add others that you have personally encountered.)
- Inclusion of the exemption from BABA mandates for HUD and USDA-funded programs would decrease the cost and inefficiencies in housing production.
- Please support the inclusion of Chair Flood's Building Housing More Affordably Act at the Financial Services Committee markup on December 16 and 17.