

PRESS RELEASE**For Immediate Release
Wednesday, October 1, 2008****Contact: Tiffany M. Gardner, 212-253-1771****National Housing Rights Groups Express Concern over the
Pending Wall Street Bailout**

(New York) – Over two dozen national housing rights groups today expressed concern over the pending government bailout of Wall Street firms. The groups have issued a letter to congressional members of the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity, urging them to ensure that any bailout plan includes ample resources and commitments for affordable housing.

In their letter, the organizations note the growing housing crisis taking place across the United States, most prominently represented by drastic increases in the nation's homeless population and the devastating impact the destruction of public housing communities has had across the nation. Additionally, the letter spoke to the Department of Housing and Urban Development's current financial shortfall, and the impact this will have on economically vulnerable populations.

"We understand that the country is facing dire economic times. Yet, it would be unacceptable to allocate funding to Wall Street banks without considering the hardships facing countless poor and working class Americans who have borne the burnt of our national economic downturn for far too long. We ask that as our congressional members seek ways to assist the private sector they not forget about the very constituencies and communities they have made an oath to serve," said Tiffany M. Gardner, Human Right to Housing director of the National Economic & Social Rights Initiative (NESRI).

According to international human rights standards, governments must protect the human right to housing, which requires that housing needs not be subordinated to corporate interests.

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[The letter to congressional members follows.]

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