

LES AUCOIN  
1ST DISTRICT, OREGON



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

March 19, 1982

Dear Colleague:

The American dream of home ownership is in grave trouble and the moment has come for housing advocates of both parties to come together to avert a crisis.

Current housing production is the lowest since World War II. The difference between new homes built and the number in demand has reached 2 million units/year. Industry unemployment looms at 16.7%. Only 1 in every 10 potential first-time homebuyers qualify financially for homeownership; 1 in 20 actual first-time buyers are now defaulting on their monthly mortgage payments.

A failing housing industry threatens the livelihood of men and women and the success of small construction businesses across the nation. It means that thousands of jobs in related industries are in jeopardy. Your constituents - carpenters, electricians, real estate sales people, and countless others are jobless. It's been estimated that at least 5,000 households in each Congressional district are unemployed due to the construction crisis.

Moreover, the American family's ability to build a sound financial future through homeownership is in danger. Since World War II, for the average American worker, owning a home has been one of the few ways to substantially increase personal assets and get ahead. Because that home is now beyond the reach of the majority of Americans, we have a crisis in shelter and in economic opportunity.

It all comes down to this: Administration and Congressional decision-making must restore housing as a national economic priority.

That's why we're forming a bi-partisan, Congressional Housing Caucus. The group will transcend political, partisan and ideological lines to provide a cohesive block of support for pro-housing legislation. We are writing to invite you to join the Caucus and become a part of this important effort.

The Caucus will push for the development and swift enactment of a multi-faceted housing production program to stimulate housing production and sales. The Housing Caucus -- working with the Homebuilders, Realtors, labor and volunteer advocacy groups -- will play a major role in this.

With the support of Congress and the Caucus, the housing industry can pull our economy out of this grim recession, as it has so many times before. If you would like to be part of the solution of putting people back to work and spurring economic activity, accept our invitation to join the Housing Caucus by contacting Denise Bell at x50855, or Jordan Clark at x53731.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Les Aucoin".

LES AUCOIN  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph McDADE".

JOSEPH MCDADE  
Member of Congress