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Estimated Public Housing Capital Fund Cuts in Maine Under House GOP Bill

The 2011 funding proposal (H.R. 1) that the House of Representatives passed on February 19 would reduce public housing capital funding by nearly \$1.1 billion, or 43 percent, compared to the 2010 level. This cut would prevent local housing agencies from carrying out needed repairs to public housing developments, such as replacing boilers or fixing roofs. As a result, it would:

- Cause living conditions to deteriorate for over one million vulnerable families that live in public housing;
- Eliminate or prevent creation of jobs in the hard-hit residential construction sector;
- Increase future federal costs by deferring improvements that would reduce energy consumption or avoid more expensive damage down the road (for example, by patching a leaky roof);
- Risk creating blight that would lower property values in surrounding neighborhoods; and
- Permit some developments to deteriorate to the point where they must be demolished, squandering decades of federal and local investment and eliminating badly needed affordable housing.

In Maine, 37 percent of households in public housing are elderly and 24 percent are disabled.* The House plan would cut \$3.0 million from housing agencies across Maine, as shown below.

Housing Agency	Number of Public Housing Units	Estimated Capital Fund Cut Under H.R. 1
Auburn	177	\$118,000
Bangor	562	\$487,000
Bar Harbor HA	115	\$86,000
Bath HA	97	\$72,000
Brewer HA	154	\$99,000
Brunswick	191	\$126,000
Ellsworth HS	50	\$36,000

Housing Agency	Number of Public Housing Units	Estimated Capital Fund Cut Under H.R. 1
Fort Fairfield HA	81	\$66,000
Lewiston HA	437	\$296,000
Mount Desert HA	18	\$12,000
Old Town	86	\$54,000
Portland HA	993	\$803,000
Preque Isle HA	185	\$155,000
Sanford HA	122	\$82,000
South Portland	346	\$216,000
Southwest Harbor HA	50	\$34,000
Tremont HA	22	\$17,000
Van Buren HA	90	\$74,000
Waterville HA	194	\$164,000
Westbrook HA	86	\$49,000

* HUD defines a household as “elderly” if the head or spouse of the head is 62 or older, and as “disabled” if the head or spouse of the head has a disability. The percentage of disabled households shown here includes only non-elderly disabled households.

Note: Estimated cuts are relative to the 2010 funding level, and assume that agencies will be eligible for the same percentage share of capital funds in 2011 as they were in 2010. Unit counts show the total number of public housing units administered by the agency according to the most recent publicly available HUD data. A small portion of the units in these data (likely less than 5 percent nationally) are in the process of being demolished, sold, or otherwise taken out of use as public housing.