

DOCKETED

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Subject Urgent Emphasis on Hiring Returning Citizens for the HOMESCommunity Benefit Program

Subject: Urgent Emphasis on Hiring Returning Citizens for the HOMES/Community Benefit Program

Dear Organizers and Stakeholders,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing on behalf of API RISE, a firm believer in the

power of inclusive practices and environmental stewardship. We would like to emphasize the

crucial role that hiring returning citizens can play in making the Community Benefit component

of the program truly inclusive and environmentally restorative.

Returning citizens often face significant barriers to reintegration into society, including challenges in securing stable employment. By prioritizing the hiring of returning citizens, companies participating in the program can contribute substantially to the creation of opportunities for marginalized individuals. This approach aligns with the program's goal of

fostering social equity and inclusion.

Moreover, we propose that companies demonstrating a commitment to hiring returning citizens

should be granted substantial favor in terms of contracts with the program. Recognizing and

rewarding such efforts would not only incentivize companies to prioritize this demographic but

also contribute to the larger objective of community development.

In addition to the social impact, the hiring of returning citizens can also play a vital role in

climate restoration through energy efficiency initiatives. By providing meaningful employment

opportunities to returning citizens, the program can contribute to a more sustainable and resilient

community. This dual-purpose approach ensures that environmental restoration goes hand in

hand with social progress.

API RISE urges the program organizers to consider these suggestions seriously and to take

proactive steps in encouraging and incentivizing the hiring of returning citizens by participating

companies. We believe that such a strategy will not only enrich the workforce but also amplify

the positive impact of the program on both marginalized communities and our environment.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to seeing the program become a model for comprehensive community development and climate restoration.