



December 1, 2023

The Honorable Phil Murphy
The Honorable Nicholas Scutari
The Honorable Craig Coughlin

Dear Governor Murphy, Senate President Scutari, and Assembly Speaker Coughlin:

I am writing on behalf of the 17 Habitat for Humanity affiliates in New Jersey to urge you to support the principles and tenets of the Mount Laurel Doctrine as we enter a fourth round of affordable housing obligations statewide.

Habitat for Humanity is committed to building, refurbishing, and repairing homes in all 21 NJ counties. Our purpose and mission are to develop and stabilize homeownership for low- to moderate-income families so they can live in dignity and with opportunity in communities of their choice statewide. NJ affiliates have partnered with townships to assist them in planning, building and meeting their affordable housing obligations.

We have learned through years of inaction and dysfunction that housing production cannot be left to the now defunct Council on Affordable Housing (COAH). We join with and fervently support the Fair Share Housing Center in its appeal to NJ elected officials to prevent any efforts to limit or reduce the impact of the Mount Laurel Doctrine and to safeguard its principles as follows:

- Enforcement by the courts
- Transparent methodology
- Clear timelines and process
- No buyouts for wealthy municipalities

NJ boasts one of the most equitable and inclusive nationally recognized housing laws - The Mount Laurel Doctrine - which requires all towns to do their fair share in the production of homes affordable to NJ residents. This means elimination of exclusionary zoning policies and working in good faith to significantly create more homes for lower-income people, people of color, and individuals with disabilities.

Without the tools available to us in the form of laws, regulations, and subsidies that are properly executed and enforced to promote affordable home ownership, we are unable to advance our vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to live. We applaud your support and hard work to help New Jerseyans realize this dream by upholding the Mount Laurel Doctrine. May we all look forward to the day when living in safe, good quality homes in communities where opportunity thrives, is enjoyed by all.

On behalf of the 17 NJ Habitat for Humanity affiliate CEOs/Executive Directors and their communities of board members, staff, volunteers, and homeowners numbering in the thousands, I thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ashley Griffiths".

Ashley Griffiths, Executive Director
Gloucester County Habitat for Humanity
agriffiths@gc-habitat.org

New Jersey Habitat for Humanity Affiliates

Habitat for Humanity of Bergen County

Habitat for Humanity of South Central New Jersey

Camden County Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity Cape May County

Coastal Habitat for Humanity

Cumberland County Habitat for Humanity

Gloucester County Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity in Monmouth County

Morris Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newark

Northern Ocean Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity Passaic County

Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity of Salem County

Habitat for Humanity of Southern Ocean County

Sussex County Habitat for Humanity

Warren County Habitat for Humanity