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**Letter of Support from the National Environmental Health Association
On HUD's Proposed Ruling to Make Public Housing Smoke-Free**

The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA), on behalf of its 5,000 members and more than 12,000 environmental health professionals nationwide, overwhelmingly supports the White House proposed ruling to prohibit lit tobacco products in all living units, indoor common areas in public housing, and in Public Housing Agency administrative office buildings.

The public health risks of tobacco use and the impacts of second-hand smoke are clear. All families deserve to live in homes that protect them from exposure to secondhand smoke, regardless of where they live or their socioeconomic situation. This ruling directly supports the work of environmental health professionals whose daily work ensures healthy communities for all people by mitigating environmental risks. In addition to protecting the health of hundreds of thousands of Americans, the financial benefits of reducing smoking-related healthcare costs and property damage are compelling – estimated by the CDC at \$153 million annually.

NEHA thanks HUD for their initiative on creating this ruling to provide increased public health protection for residents of public housing.

Sincerely,

David T. Dyjack, Dr.PH, CIH
Executive Director
The National Environmental Health Association