

October 21, 2000

Howard Shapiro, Chair  
HAP Board of Commissioners  
135 SW Ash Street  
Portland, OR 97204-3540

Dear Chair Shapiro,

On September 27<sup>th</sup>, the HAP Board of Commissioners voted to adopt the proposed bylaws for the Resident Policy Advisory Committee (RPAC). However, a number of us in the housing advocacy community are very concerned about the lack of opportunity in those bylaws for HAP-assisted tenants to actually vote for those residents who will serve on the RPAC. As you may have noticed, the bylaws allow the Planning Committee members, who were appointed by HAP staff, to appoint themselves as initial members of the RPAC. Afterward, these initial members will vote on those residents who will fill the remaining RPAC slots from a list of HAP-approved applicants. Thus, only a handful of HAP's approximately 10,700 households will actually decide who gets to join the RPAC. And the bylaws provide that future RPAC members will be chosen in the same unrepresentative manner.

Fortunately, HAP has also provided the solution to remedy this exclusionary election process. As a result of an apparent mistake, a different set of bylaws, establishing the creation of a Resident Advisory Board (RAB), were sent out in the email version of the September HAP Board packet. These RAB bylaws provide for an annual meeting in January to which all HAP-assisted tenants would be invited. At the meeting, all tenants who are 18 or older would have the opportunity to vote for members of the RAB. These bylaws would also provide that the RAB president would represent tenants at HAP Board meetings.

It is our hope that the HAP Board of Commissioners will amend the adopted RPAC bylaws to include the election provisions of the RAB bylaws. Excluding almost all of HAP's 10,700 households from voting on who is elected to the RPAC is a very unwise policy. All HAP residents 18 or over should have the opportunity to elect the members of **their** Resident Policy Advisory Committee.

Sincerely,

Steve Weiss  
For the following organizations:  
The Community Alliance of Tenants  
The Community Development Network  
The Oregon Law Center