

September 7, 2021

The Honorable Maxine Waters
Chairwoman
Committee on Financial Services
2129 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Waters:

I am writing to request that H.R. 3913, the *Renter Protection Act*, be attached to the September 10th hearing titled: “Protecting Renters During the Pandemic: Reviewing Reforms to Expedite Emergency Rental Assistance” as well as added to the September 13, 2021 markup. H.R. 3913 is necessary to fix the Administration’s mismanagement of the emergency rental assistance (ERA) programs, get money out the door quickly to renters, and keep American families in their homes. Passage of H.R. 3913 is particularly urgent given the Supreme Court’s August 28th decision to strike down the Administration’s latest attempt to extend the unconstitutional eviction moratorium.

Committee Republicans anticipated this situation. Well before the eviction moratorium expired on July 31, 2021, Committee Republicans were concerned about the timely distribution of rental assistance. On May 18, 2021, I sent a letter to Treasury Secretary Yellen asking for data on how much of the ERA funding had reached renters and landlords given the dismal roll out of the program. With no answers, on June 15, 2021, I sent the Government Accountability Office (GAO) a letter asking them to audit the ERA programs. On June 16, 2021, Committee Republicans introduced H.R. 3913 to ensure the \$46 billion appropriated by Congress for rental assistance was going to those families who need the assistance the most.

Failure by this Committee to move H.R. 3913 will only prolong the hardships faced by many Americans impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Congress came together last December to ensure that renters who found themselves in arrears because of COVID-19 would be made whole. Let’s work together to move H.R. 3913 to restore the premise of the agreement we reached last December to focus on individuals and households who find themselves in rental arrears because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I look forward to working with you on this critical issue.

Sincerely,



Patrick McHenry