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December 21, 2021

The Honorable Janet L. Yellen  
Secretary of the Department of Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Yellen,

I write to express my support for the City of Tucson's and Pima County's request for reallocation of Emergency Rental Assistance Funds submitted on November 29, 2021, in the amount of \$24 million. Pursuant to section 501(d) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, the Department of Treasury has the authority to recapture excess ERA1 funds from grantees that have failed to obligate funds for eligible ERA1 purposes and reallocate those funds to grantees that have obligated at least 65% of their initial allocation and have shown continued need.

Through partnership, the City of Tucson and Pima County have efficiently obligated at least 65% their initial ERA1 funds and have demonstrated the need for the requested funds and capacity to use those funds pursuant to eligible ERA1 purposes by September 30, 2022. As of December 20, 2021, the City of Tucson and Pima County have distributed nearly \$38.5 million in rental assistance and have received 30,766 eviction prevention requests. The City of Tucson and Pima County have finalized 7,860 cases and have 1,626 cases currently in process. Additionally, they have obligated 45% of ERA2 funds necessitating the additional \$24 million requested for reallocation.

The Department of Treasury has stated that reallocation of funds will be prioritized to grantees that are likely to expend all their remaining ERA1 and ERA2 allocations promptly. If the requested funds are not reallocated, ERA for the City of Tucson and Pima County will end mid-January although the need for rental assistance will persist. Approximately 945 cases are awaiting tenant eligibility forms and 5,011 cases have shown preliminary eligibility and are awaiting a caseworker. Projections from the City of Tucson show that on a monthly basis from November 2021 to February 2022, 857 applications will be submitted, 750 unique households will be assisted, and \$4.1 million in assistance will be expended to eligible households.

The City of Tucson and Pima County have met all necessary requirements for reallocation and have efficiently obligated their initial allocated funds. I urge you to expedite the necessary reallocation of \$24 million to the City of Tucson and Pima County as they have demonstrated the need for the additional funds and have the capacity to obligate those funds pursuant to ERA eligibility requirements. I thank you for taking this request into consideration and look forward to working with the Department of Treasury to ensure that the ERA program continues to

provide necessary emergency rental assistance to all those adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic not only in the City of Tucson and Pima County but across the nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raúl M. Grijalva". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'R' and 'G'.

Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress