Date: _____

Dear Congressperson _____:

I am writing regarding an innovative housing program developed by the hotel workers union - Local 26 in Boston. They negotiated the first-ever housing trust fund to provide housing assistance to service workers.

This trust fund is similar to collective bargaining agreements jointly administered by union and management which currently provide pensions, legal or educational assistance. These trust funds can only be negotiated if both union and management agree. Because the fund is a private housing initiative, and a taxable benefit, it is at no cost to the government. However, in order for housing assistance to be provided through the collective bargaining process the Taft-Hartley Act must be adjusted. As Andrew Card, Deputy White House Chief of Staff, has stated:

> "It is outrageous that the government prevents such private sector initiatives. . . I will be an advocate within the White House to amend Taft-Hartley to allow for a housing trust fund."

Senator Kennedy with Senator Orrin Hatch have co-sponsored the necessary legislation, Senate Bill S-1949. The bill unanimously passed the Senate on November 22, 1989 and now needs House approval. As stated by Senator Kennedy:

> "Labor and management in Boston have agreed on an effective approach to better housing. They need no money from Congress for this trust fund to become a reality. All they require is permission to do so under the Labor Management Relations Act. I hope we can quickly enact this legislation into law so that those who wish to address the increasingly pressing problem of affordable housing as part of the collective bargaining process may be able to do so."
> [Congressional Record page S16674-5]

I feel that immediate action is necessary. This adjustment to Taft-Hartley must be made by May 31, 1990 in order for this partnership model to become a reality. Please write to me as to your position regarding this bill and what you are doing to facilitate its passage. Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____