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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4209

January 13, 2015

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(U.S. HELSINKI COMMISSION)

The Honorable Julian Castro
Secretary
Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20410

Dear Secretary Castro:

I am concerned about recent reports regarding safety and security problems at the Peppertree Apartments, a federally subsidized complex in Memphis.^[1] According to media reports, Memphis Police were called 1,200 times to the complex last year.^[2] Tenants have also complained of rodents,^[3] as well as bedbugs and broken appliances.^[4]

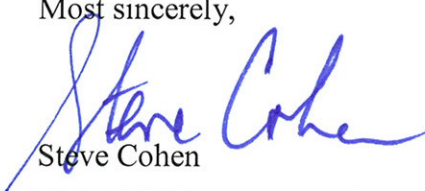
If these reports are accurate, this is deeply disturbing. Tenants deserve clean, safe, and fully functional housing.

I would appreciate an update on the Department's efforts to address these tenants' concerns.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter, and for your continued commitment to safe, affordable housing.

As always, I remain,

Most sincerely,


Steve Cohen

^[1] <http://www.fox13memphis.com/news/whitehaven-community-members-meet-to-address-problems-at-peppertree-apartments/17834268>

^[2] <http://wreg.com/2016/01/12/community-members-tenants-demand-peppertree-apartments-shut-down/>

^[3] <http://www.localmemphis.com/news/local-news/peppertree-apartments-complaints>

^[4] <http://wreg.com/2016/01/12/community-members-tenants-demand-peppertree-apartments-shut-down/>