

SEAN PATRICK MALONEY  
18TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

1027 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-5441

123 GRAND ST., 2ND FLOOR  
NEWBURGH, NY 12550  
(845) 561-1259

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-3218

January 9, 2018

Lynne Patton, Region II Regional Administrator  
Jacob K. Javits Federal Building  
26 Federal Plaza, Suite 3541  
New York, NY 10278-0068

Dear Ms. Patton,

I write you regarding an urgent issue facing many of my constituents in Poughkeepsie. Specifically, I am requesting that HUD complete an immediate inspection of the Rip Van Winkle House in Poughkeepsie, New York and ensures that issues identified in the inspection be mitigated in a timely fashion to protect the safety of the occupants.

On October 30, 2017 a boiler in the basement of the Rip Van Winkle House caused a fire that displaced more than 300 residents. While all residents were able to return to their units within thirty days, there have been persistent heating issues in the building, with some units heated below 68 degrees Fahrenheit. Upon further discussion with the Mayor of Poughkeepsie, the Honorable Robert Rolison, there are indications that this heating issue may have been ongoing prior to the boiler fire. We have a responsibility to ensure that the residents of the Rip Van Winkle House are living in safe conditions and that they are able to heat their homes during this harsh New York winter.

I request that you conduct an immediate inspection and full audit of the Rip Van Winkle House to ensure that it is in compliance with its housing assistance program (HAP) contract and HUD-adopted Housing Quality Standards (HQS). I am further requesting that you ensure all residents, Mayor Robert Rolison, and Poughkeepsie city officials be made aware of the results of this audit immediately following its completion. Further, if there are any renovations that need to be made to ensure the safety of the Rip Van Winkle House, I ask you to ensure that they are completed in a timely fashion that provides the least amount of hardship for residents.

Thank you for your attention to this issue. Please let me know if there is any additional information I can provide.

Sincerely,



Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress