

FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

201 WEST PARK AVENUE
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32301-7715

PHONE (850) 205-6820
FAX (850) 205-6849
WWW.FLACCB.ORG

MICHAEL B. SHEEDY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



June 4, 2015

The Honorable Tom Lee
Senate Appropriations Chairman
Room 418, Senate Office Building
404 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

***RE: Urging Support for Senate Position to Fully Fund Housing Trust Funds
(General Government Line Item 2240)***

Dear Chairman Lee:

We support full funding of affordable housing trust funds. Through documentary stamps on real estate transactions, the Sadowski Act of 1992 helps some of our most vulnerable Floridians by preventing homelessness, providing sustainable homeownership, and funding emergency repairs and disaster recovery for Florida's most vulnerable residents, including the elderly, persons with disabilities and veterans.

Affordable and accessible housing allows seniors and persons with disabilities to live independently, avoiding public costs of institutional care. Permanent supportive housing for the chronic homeless saves taxpayer dollars by reducing hospital, law enforcement, and other crisis expenses. A fully-funded trust fund would also create about 30,000 jobs and spur \$2.9 billion in positive economic impact next year.

Stemming mainly from past budget deficits, the legislature has swept over \$1 billion from housing trust funds since 2002 for use as general revenue.

Again, we urge support for the Senate's position to fully fund the state and local housing trust funds. Thank you for your consideration of this concern. We are pleased to address any questions you or your staff might have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Michael B. Sheedy". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Michael B. Sheedy

cc: The Honorable Richard Corcoran, House Appropriations Chairman
Most Rev. Thomas G. Wenski, Archbishop of Miami and FCCB President
Most Rev. Robert N. Lynch, Bishop of St. Petersburg
Most Rev. Frank J. Dewane, Bishop of Venice & FCCB Justice & Peace Moderator
Ingrid M. Delgado, Associate for Social Concerns/Respect Life