

WASHINGTON- Today Congressman Lee Terry (R-NE) issued the following statement regarding H.R. 3524, the Hope VI Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2007. After hearing from the Omaha Housing Authority Congressman Terry believes the bill is overly prescriptive and potentially burdensome for the community of Omaha, in particular the one-for-one replacement of public housing units.

**"The one-for-one requirement is not feasible for Omaha. This would cause an unnecessary burden at taxpayer's expense. I support public housing 100%, but I must do what is right for my community and my constituents and this bill does not work for Omaha."**

One particular area where the Omaha Housing Authority would like to apply the HOPE VI grant is to the Pleasant View area. Nearly 200 units in that area are in need of demolition, but with the one-for-one requirement the Omaha Housing Authority would not be able to plausibly perform this demolition.

Another problematic change for the Omaha Housing Authority would be the compliance with the Green Communities rating system. This legislation requires the proposed revitalization plan to comply with the mandatory and non-mandatory items of the National Green Community checklist.

**"By forcing OHA to comply with this checklist we will drive up development costs and threaten the viability of this important housing program in Omaha by reducing the actual number of units that can be built."**



