



April 28, 2023

Representative Jimmy Panetta
304 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: LODGING OPTIONS DEVELOPED FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES
(LODGE ACT) — SUPPORT**

Dear Representative Panetta,

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we want to thank you for reintroducing H.R. 1314, the Lodging Options Developed for Government Employees (LODGE) Act. We believe this legislation will significantly improve the availability of affordable housing in and around our nation's parks and provide much-needed relief to our rural communities. RCRC is an association of forty rural California counties and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from each of those member counties.

As you know, rural areas across the country, including California, are facing a housing crisis. In many cases, this is due to a lack of affordable housing options, which is driving up costs and making it difficult for federal workers to find suitable accommodation. This is especially true in and around our nation's parks, where demand for housing is high, and supply is limited.

The LODGE Act has the potential to address these issues by fostering public-private partnerships and we believe that this legislation has the potential to make a real difference in the lives of federal workers and bolster staff numbers to adequate levels. We look forward to working with you to ensure its passage into law.

For the above reasons, RCRC is pleased to support the LODGE Act. Please do not hesitate to contact me at mwarmerdam@rcrcnet.org with any questions.

Sincerely,

MARY-ANN WARMERDAM
Senior Vice President of Governmental Affairs

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cc: Katie Wheeler Mathews, California Governor's Office, Washington D.C.
Randy Moore, Chief, USDA Forest Service