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March 31, 2010

The Honorable Shelley Berkley
United States House of Representatives
405 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-4708

Dear Congresswoman Berkley:

The American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), representing more than 430 public colleges, universities, and systems of higher education, writes in support of H.R. 1547 Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for collegiate housing infrastructure grants.

Fraternalities and sororities are the nation's largest not-for-profit student landlords, operating several billion dollars in housing for more than 250,000 students each year. However, aging Greek properties are plagued with faulty wiring, problem plumbing and malfunctioning fire sprinklers that make afflicted buildings uninhabitable and create a housing shortage on many campuses. Without a donor tax exemption for improvements to these buildings, it will be nearly impossible to solicit funds for costly upgrades. We understand that passage of H.R. 643 will make it possible for contributions for critical infrastructure and life safety improvements to housing to be tax-deductible.

Please let us know what we may do to support this important measure should it be considered by the House Ways and Means Committee.

With kindest regards,

Muriel A. Howard
President

MAH/rj