Dear <MP name>,

I am writing on behalf of [insert group name here] in X [add location] to ask for your support in pressing HM Treasury to **urgently** **renew the Community Housing Fund** as part of this **Autumn’s Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR).**

Renewing the Community Housing Fund (CHF) is vital because it will help 1000s of ordinary people and community groups to develop their own solutions to the housing crisis. Over the last 10 years, 900 groups have emerged and the current pipeline of new homes has more than trebled to up to 23,000 today. If the Community Housing Fund is renewed it will activate 1000s of “shovel-ready schemes” and provide an alternative to choices offered by volume house builders.

Renewing the Community Housing Fund will help local councils with community engagement as part of their local plans. Community Led Housing (CLH) groups will deliver against the government priorities on:

* **Levelling up and economic recovery:** CLH offers value for money and a vital source of contracts for local SME developers and builders, saving local jobs in the construction industry, often developing on sites mainstream developers deem too challenging, creating additional ‘windfall’ homes (Research: Capital Economics, 2020)
* **First Homes programme:**  one of the first community land trusts (CLTs) in Rock, Cornwall pioneered a model of First Homes 12 years ago, selling homes at 30% of open market value to local people with the discount locked in perpetuity. CLH offers innovation and affordability.
* **Build Better Build Beautiful Commission:** community involvement in place-making and neighbourhood design draws upon the ingenuity and creativity of local people passionate about the aesthetics of their neighbourhoods, ensuring high-quality design local people want.
* **Diversification and market choice:** CLH offers an alternative to volume house building designs, helps fulfil the statutory obligations on Self-Build and Custom Build Register (cohousing group**s** frequently build 25 - 40 homes in one development). Most CLH schemes build to high energy efficiency and passivhaus standards as given the choice, most people are shown to prefer these features, not offered by mainstream housebuilders.
* **Modern Methods of Construction (MMC):** high quality, energy efficient, custom-build and kit-homes are being constructed off-site, providing speed, lower cost build options and less disruption when building on site. This is increasingly popular with locally-led community builds and is being encouraged by the government.
* **Well-being and Loneliness**: cohousing particularly offers neighbourliness and mutually supportive communities that help reduce loneliness and isolation. Older residents are better able to live independently for longer, potentially reducing the social care budgets (Cambridge Centre for Housing and Planning Research) and encouraging downsizing and the release of family-sized homes that is a housing pressure in most areas.

We request that you back [Community Led Homes](http://www.communityledhomes.org.uk) and urge the Chancellor to extend the Community Housing Fund for five years within the Comprehensive Spending Review. Please could you ask them to copy the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Minister of State for Housing.

I look forward to your reply and your consideration of our situation.

Yours sincerely,

<name> <your position and the name of your group