

*C. J. Fox*

August 10, 1937

To: The President

From: M. S. Eccles

Subject: WAGNER-STEAGALL HOUSING BILL

I am writing to urge that you speak to Congressman Steagall about the following matter today before the House committee acts on the Wagner-Steagall Housing Bill:

Mr. Lubin and I have talked with Senator Wagner, Senator La Follette, Congressman Steagall, and Congressman Goldsborough about the proposed rental-housing amendments to the National Housing Act which Mr. McIntyre spoke to you about last week at the request of Mr. Merriam, Mr. Lubin, and myself.

Senator Wagner and Senator La Follette, the latter of whom will be on the conference committee on the Wagner-Steagall Housing Bill, are very favorable to these amendments and are entirely willing to have them added to that Bill. I have talked to both Congressman Steagall and Congressman Goldsborough, and they are ready to undertake to have the House committee report the amendments if you will indicate to Congressman Steagall today that you will be favorable to their inclusion in the bill.

Those of us who have considered this matter since the recent White House Conference are satisfied that far more rental-housing construction will take place through private channels under those amendments than the maximum of public-housing financed under the Wagner-Steagall bill. But the amendments are needed in order to get this additional private construction, because at the present time an effective financial mechanism for handling rental-housing projects does not exist.

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