



ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR  
PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-5000

November 22, 2019

Dear Executive Director,

Under Secretary Ben Carson's leadership, health in housing is a premier priority for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and we thank you for your diligence in helping to ensure safe housing conditions for the residents we serve.

It has come to our attention, through the investigative reporting of *The Oregonian*, that radon testing and mitigation has not received the attention HUD's Office of Public and Indian Housing has encouraged. The Department is continuing its commitment to educate and inform the public about radon.

It is your obligation to provide safe, decent, and sanitary housing in your community, and this obligation includes testing and mitigating exposure to harmful toxins in homes. Furthermore, a majority of you are legally obligated under state law to test for radon.

In 2013, the Office of Public and Indian Housing (PIH) issued a notice (PIH-2013-06) providing public housing agencies (PHAs) information about health risks of radon exposure, advising PHAs to learn about local radon policies, and encouraging PHAs to test and mitigate radon.

In addition to this notice, we have provided you with the pertinent contact information below to help with the radon testing and mitigation process.

- National Radon Hotline (to order a radon test kit):
  - 1-800-767-7236 (for test kits)
- National Safety Council/EPA Radon Hotline:
  - 1-800-557-2366 (for questions)
- Radon Fix-It Hotline:
  - 1-800-644-6999
- Spanish Language Radon Hotline:
  - 1-800-725-8312

The EPA offers radon mitigation techniques during construction and for existing buildings here:

During Construction:

<https://www.epa.gov/radon/radon-resistant-construction-basics-and-techniques> and

For Existing Buildings:

[https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-12/documents/2016\\_consumers\\_guide\\_to\\_radon\\_reduction.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-12/documents/2016_consumers_guide_to_radon_reduction.pdf)

Thank you for your continued partnership and assistance in these efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'R. Hunter Kurtz', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

R. Hunter Kurtz  
Assistant Secretary