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**SANDERS ANNOUNCES \$25 MILLION IN NEW FUNDING FOR LAND TRUSTS**

Rep. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., joined by three housing representatives at a press conference in Burlington, today announced \$25 million in new housing money will be available for community land trusts. Sanders, said the money was included in legislation he introduced which was passed by the House Friday as part of the Housing bill.

Sanders, who helped establish the first municipally-funded community land trust in the nation while he was Mayor of Burlington, said he was happy to make this announcement as the Burlington Community Land Trust is celebrating its tenth anniversary. Sanders noted that the land trust efforts in Vermont have served as a model for his work in Washington.

"I have tried in Congress to bring the lessons we learned in Burlington, and throughout Vermont, to the nation as a whole. The Burlington Community Land Trust has provided over one hundred units of affordable housing to Vermont residents; equally important, through the land trust concept these units will remain perpetually affordable," Sanders said.

Sanders said the \$25 million will go towards technical assistance to community land trusts. "I am delighted that, HUD has now made money available for land trusts which need help in getting started, increasing the range of their services, or extending the geographical regions they serve."

Tim McKenzie, the former director of the Burlington Community Land Trust, said the technical assistance money in Sanders' legislation would provide a big boost to land trusts. "The technical assistance money will help them build stronger, more stable organizations, and improve their ability to manage the increasingly complicated businesses that they run."

The funds in Sanders' amendment are awarded competitively. Sanders said he believed Vermont land trusts had a good chance of receiving funding under the measure. "I think Vermont is ahead of the rest of the country in this area. We have a head start because we have been doing this work for ten years and we have some of the sharpest and most knowledgeable people in this country. I would be surprised if some of this money did not come back to Vermont."

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