



Hello Sadowski Coalition Members and Affiliates:

I put this statement out following the Governor's press conference on the budget:

STATEMENT ON VETO OF SADOWSKI HOUSING TRUST FUNDS

(June 29, 2020) “While the funding for SHIP was vetoed from the budget, the Governor’s decision to direct \$250 million in CARES Act funding for rental and mortgage assistance shows the Governor continues to prioritize affordable housing in the state. The veto of SHIP funding means those funds stay in the Local Government Housing Trust Fund.

We look forward to working with the Governor and the Florida Legislature during the special session which we anticipate in the fall to evaluate whether the SHIP funds can be appropriated at that time. We will all have a better handle on the state’s housing needs after the CARES Act funds have been deployed.

We agree with the Governor that now is the time to focus on deploying the CARES Act funds which need to be expended by the end of December.”

I know we are very disappointed that SHIP (\$225 million) was vetoed but I don’t believe we should look at this as a sweep of SHIP —there is a huge amount of CARES Act funding going to local governments now that has to be deployed immediately. It will be gone by the end of December. We will need to work with the Governor and the Legislature in November to address the need for SHIP funding immediately thereafter. CARES Act funding can’t be used the same way SHIP is used. For example, we won’t be able to address any housing issues that are not COVID related with the federal funds. We will lose the new construction, homeownership opportunities, disaster mitigation, and the jobs that are created with all these activities that are the staples of SHIP. But I think it is truly important to see that the Governor has put more money into housing than we had before. He did not have to direct any of the CARES Act funding for housing and he did. I would not take this veto of SHIP as a sign that the Governor does not still support SHIP. I believe he absolutely does support

SHIP- but needs to keep some options open while he addresses the coronavirus crisis.

The Governor did not veto SAIL or the Hurricane Housing Recovery Program. Those appropriations of \$115 million and \$30 million, respectively remained intact.

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