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## Congressman Neal and Chicopee Mayor visit seniors at Dom Polski apartments Oktoberfest in Chicopee

Congressman Richard Neal (D-MA) and Chicopee Mayor Michael Bissonette visited with the residents of the Dom Narodowy Polski apartment community during the Oct. 25 Oktoberfest.

Neal told the group that the Dom Narodowy Polski affordable housing apartments are a reminder of the partnership that exists between Washington and local communities. At a time of political contention, “there’s plenty of room as members of the American family to argue about everything, however we all ought to agree that in a nation that has been blessed with the bounty we have, everybody ought to have enough to eat and shelter. Those are minimal parts of the American dream.”

Before the speeches, the residents enjoyed live music and a festive lunch which included local dishes, pumpkin pie and apple cider.

### ***Background:***

POAH purchased a portfolio of properties including Dom Narodowy Polski in 2006 to preserve their affordability. Financing for the purchase came through acquisition loans from the Massachusetts Housing Investment Corporation (MHIC), a MassHousing mortgage and proceeds from the syndication of low income housing tax credits (LIHTC).

To address the long-term energy efficiency needs of both Dom Narodowy Polski buildings, POAH undertook a variety of renovations, including installing new windows and high efficiency heating, cooling and hot water systems. Contractors replaced the roofs of both buildings and made facade repairs to reduce water leaks. POAH has installed wireless internet access in the community room, which also provides a range of services, classes and meetings of interest to residents. POAH owns 6,600 affordable units in nine states and the District of Columbia.