



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

WILLIAM A. BELL, SR.
MAYOR

November 4, 2011

The Honorable Richard Shelby
United States Senate
304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: FY12 Funding for CDBG and HOME

Dear Senator Shelby:

As the chief elected official of the City of Birmingham, I am writing this letter on behalf of our community to ask you, as you conference H.R. 2112, to support the House-recommended funding level of \$3.5 billion in formula funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and \$1.2 billion in formula funding for the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program. Both CDBG and HOME provide vital funding to projects and services within our community that directly impact the lives of our low- and moderate-income citizens. Both programs provide the flexibility to fund a myriad of activities, fill gaps where needed, and attract additional resources to projects. This combination of CDBG and HOME with other funding sources adds to our local economy and to a better quality of life for our citizens.

On behalf of my community, I also urge you to oppose the House-recommended provision in the bill that would reduce the CDBG administrative cap from 20% to 10%, cutting the administrative allowance in half. CDBG grantees will not be able to fully operate or effectively operate their programs at this level.

I would also like to extend an invitation to you and your staff to tour our CDBG- and HOME-funded projects to see the benefits of both programs firsthand. We thank you, in advance, for your continued support of these valuable programs. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William A. Bell, Sr.".

William A. Bell, Sr.
Mayor