November 4, 2011

The Honorable Senator Kohl
330 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-4903

RE: FY12 Funding for CDBG and HOME

Dear Senator Kohl:

As the Mayor of the City of Wausau, 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 Wausau's low and moderate-income residents. 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. For every federal dollar spent on economic development in Wausau, has been leveraged by at least $4.00 of private funding. Our partnerships, using both federal and private funds, have assisted us to produce new jobs, businesses, and other economic initiatives.

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 or effectively operate their programs at this level. Now, more than ever, these programs and their administrations are crucial to our economic recovery.

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

Respectfully,

James E. Tipple
Mayor, City of Wausau