



City of Independence

Office of the Mayor, Don B. Reimal

Friday, October 28, 2011

The Honorable Roy Blunt
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: FY12 Funding for CDBG and HOME

Dear Senator Blunt:

As the chief elected official of the City of Independence, I am writing this letter on behalf of our community to ask you 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 Program in FY12. 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.

As you know, HUD Secretary Donovan's October visit to the Norledge Neighborhood in Independence was to see firsthand the economic impact that investment of federal housing and community development dollars is having in our nation's communities. I want to emphasize that the CDBG and HOME programs were, in fact, vital to the success of this project as flexible funding sources that served as gap financing and leverage to attract additional funding and partnership resources. As affirmed by Secretary Donovan, the Norledge project is a powerful example of how the combination of CDBG and HOME with other funding sources adds to our local economy and to the betterment of the lives of our citizens through improved neighborhoods, increased tax base and job creation.

On behalf of my community, I also urge you to oppose the House-recommended provision in its FY12 Transportation-HUD bill to cut administrative funding for CDBG in half. Currently, CDBG communities have the flexibility to use up to 20% of their grant to meet the administrative and planning requirements of the program. For Independence this allowance supports two staff persons who are highly trained in the intricacies of federal grant program administration, so a reduction of this size would undoubtedly cripple the efficiency of our program.

As always, I welcome you and your staff to come tour our CDBG- and HOME- funded projects, and see for yourself the benefits of both programs. We thank you, in advance, for your continued support of our community. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,


Don B. Reimal
Mayor