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September 29, 2011

U.S. Senate
District Office
Senator Robert Portman
37 W. Broad Street, Room 300
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Honorable Senator Portman:

RE: FY12 Funding

The **Community Development (CDBG), HOME and related programs** have been a saving grace to the Carroll County area in many ways over the years. They have allowed us to provide desperately needed **housing assistance, jobs, social services, and public improvements** to our lower income citizens. While Carroll County is not 51% lower income, **all of its incorporated areas are over 51% lower income**. The vast majority of funds have been spent in these incorporated areas over the past 25 years.

CDBG and ARC funds have permitted the county to undertake several economic development projects in a job poor Appalachian county.

- **Colfor Expansion Project** in Minerva.
 - a) These programs, and a State program, provided **\$530,000 for offsite infrastructure** that allowed Colfor to expand.
 - b) This stimulated **\$4.3 million in private investment**.
 - c) This expansion created **131 manufacturing jobs**
 - d) Could **not** have happened **without** CDBG and ARC funds.

- **Countryview Manor Development** in Commerce Park, Washington Twp.
 - a) **CDBG** provided **\$330,000 for offsite infrastructure** to permit the construction of **Countryview Manor**, a nursing home for the developmentally disabled
 - b) This stimulated \$2.2 million in private investment.
 - c) The development created **12 new jobs , and retained 28**

Could **not** have happened **without CDBG funds.**

- **Leesville Nursing Home** This facility was forced to close due to bad well water. County obtained **CDBG funds to install a waterline from a nearby Village.** Nursing home reopened **employing 30 persons.**

The County has, for years, undertaken various forms of rehabilitation to, and upgrading of, the **Carroll County Nursing Home,** which houses and cares for 45 of the most destitute and frail of its residents. All of the County's FY11 Formula funds are going to this facility. Without these numerous improvements, **made possible with CDBG funds,** the County **would have closed** this facility some years ago.

CDBG funds have helped the County:

- Provide **water and sewer service** to **hundreds of lower income households;**
- fund a portion of **new fire station** in Carrollton;
- **Rehabilitate Fire Houses** in Sherrodsville, and Loudon Twp.;
- Rehabilitate the **senior center** in Carrollton;
- Assist with the construction of a **community center** in Dellroy;
- Expand and rehabilitate the Malvern **sanitary sewer plant to meet EPA standards;**
- Provide **handicapped access** to the Carrollton Arts Center, and the Perry Twp meeting building;
- Rehabilitate building housing "Our Place", **which provides after school care,** in Dellroy;
- Extend **water lines** to Leesville, under **no drink order from EPA.** This permitted **Gnadenhutten High School to remain open;**
- Rehabilitate **MRDD School** for handicapped persons;
- Provide matching funds for **\$2million DOT and ARC grants to revitalize downtown Carrollton;**
- Provide matching funds to **assist with removal of houses in flood plain** in Brown Twp;
- **Install sidewalk** along a busy highway in Augusta **so children could safety reach school;**
- **Install audio visual equipment** in the Carrollton High School.
- **None** would have happened **without CDBG funds.**

CDBG/HOME funds have provided-

- Owner **housing rehabilitation;**
- Owner **home repairs;**
- **Homebuyer assistance;**
- And several new Habitat Houses
- For literally hundreds of households over the years.

Home Repair program-


- Focused on households **below 50% of area median income;**
- Limited to conditions, which are a **threat to health/safety** and the **integrity of the structures.**

- **Saved lives** and **improved health-**
 - a) Replacing furnaces,
 - b) hot water heaters,
 - c) roofs, wells,
 - d) septic systems,
 - e) providing utility connections,
 - f) and repairs to same.
- Assistance provided goes to the **most desperate** of our citizens.
- Present funding **only allows** us to scratch the surface of this **serious problem**.
- **Cuts** to funding would be **devastating**.

In a number of instances these funds were able to provide assistance to desperate households who, with children or elderly occupants, lost heat in the winter, had wells go bad, faced eviction due to failed septic system, or had water or sewer lines burst.

It is **not** just the large cities that use **CDBG** and **HOME**. It is also used to support **rural Appalachian counties** like ours. It has accomplished much, but the need is overwhelming, and getting worse with the economy. **We ask you to preserve funding for the CDBG and HOME programs.**

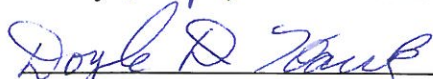
Respectively submitted by the Board of Carroll County Commissioners



 Thomas A. Wheaton, President



 Jeffrey L. Ohler, Vice President



 Doyle D. Hawk, Commissioner