

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 4, 2014

The Honorable Patty Murray, Chairwoman
The Honorable Susan Collins, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Murray and Ranking Member Collins:

As you near consideration of the Fiscal Year 2015 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we urge the Subcommittee to maintain the Federal government's commitment to community development programs at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and support at least \$3.3 billion in formula funds for the Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) program.

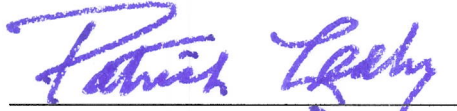
We appreciate your past support of this vital program. The CDBG program is the centerpiece of the Federal government's efforts to help approximately 1,200 entitlement cities, urban counties, and States meet the needs of low- and moderate-income communities. It is one of the most effective Federal domestic programs to revitalize communities with proven results. The program helps fund a wide range of activities, including homeownership assistance, housing rehabilitation, public improvements, public services, and economic development projects.

According to data reported to HUD by grantees, CDBG housing projects assisted more than 1.1 million households over the past nine years, by providing financial assistance to new homeowners and rehabilitation assistance to the elderly and other existing homeowners. In addition, since 2005, the program has helped create and retain more than 330,500 jobs for low- and moderate income persons through a variety of economic development activities and provided vital public services to over 100 million persons.

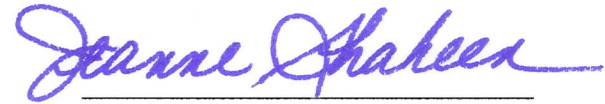
We understand that difficult decisions face the Subcommittee in meeting funding needs under the restrictions created by the Budget Control Act. However, we remain concerned about the impact past cuts have had on the program and the continued impact any additional cuts will have on the communities that rely on this funding to serve their most vulnerable residents. The CDBG formula allocation has been reduced by \$920 million since 2010. Because of these cuts to the formula allocation, programs and projects funded by CDBG and the number of residents served by these activities have been cut, too. In light of these drastic reductions, communities have struggled to continue their programs and have discontinued critical projects for low- and moderate-income persons.

Communities will continue to experience setbacks with a decline in funding for the CDBG formula allocation. Therefore, we urge you to provide at least \$3.3 billion in the FY15 THUD Appropriations bill to allow the CDBG program to continue vital rehabilitation and improvement projects. Thank you for your consideration of this request and your support of community development and revitalization.

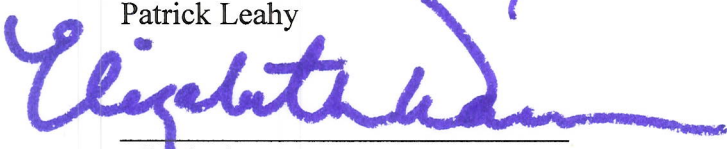
Sincerely,




Patrick Leahy




Jeanne Shaheen



Elizabeth Warren




Maria Cantwell



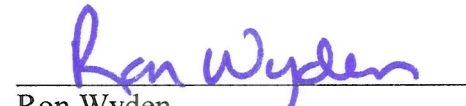
Sheldon Whitehouse



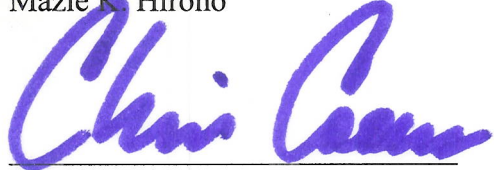
Kirsten E. Gillibrand



Mazie Hirono



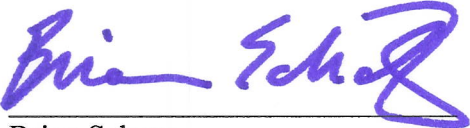
Ron Wyden



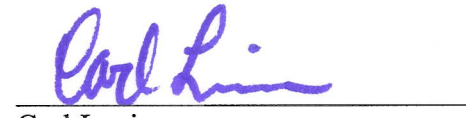
Christopher A. Coons




Mary L. Landrieu



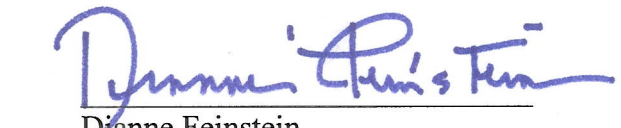
Brian Schatz




Carl Levin



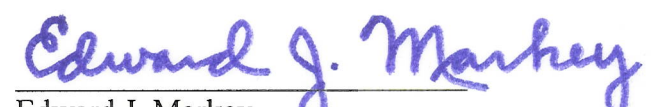
Tom Harkin



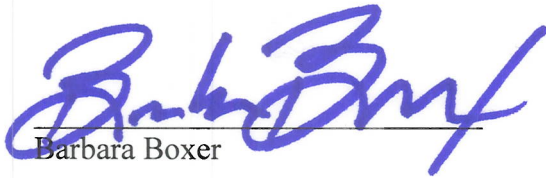
Dianne Feinstein

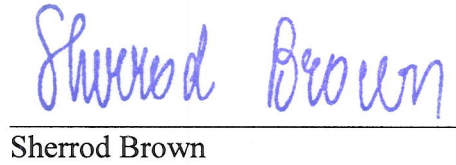


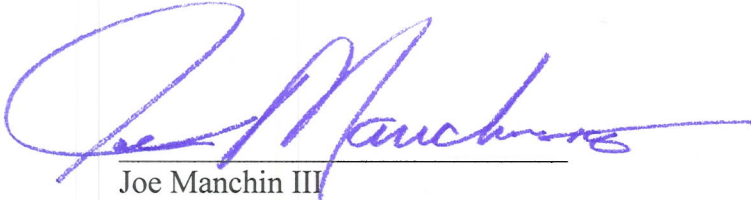
Robert P. Casey, Jr.

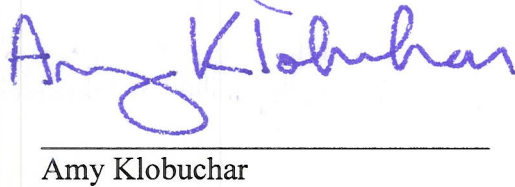


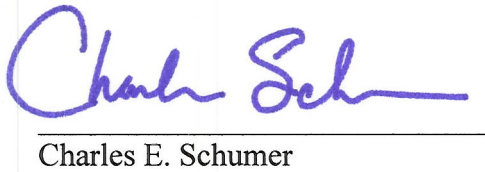
Edward J. Markey

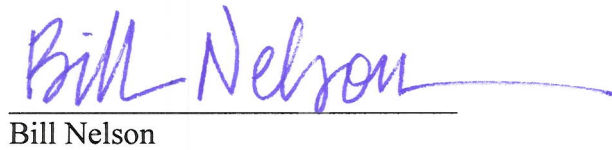

Barbara Boxer

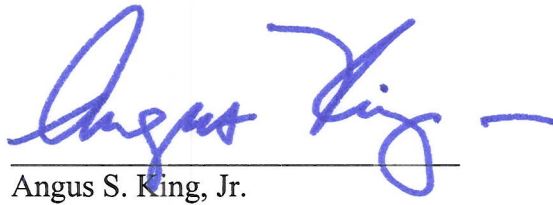

Sherrod Brown

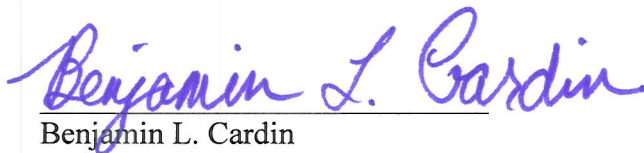

Joe Manchin III

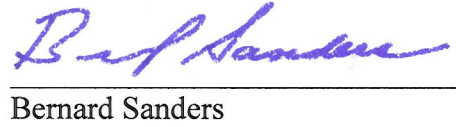

Amy Klobuchar

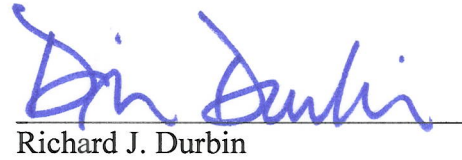

Charles E. Schumer


Bill Nelson

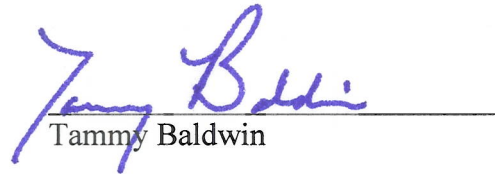

Angus S. King, Jr.

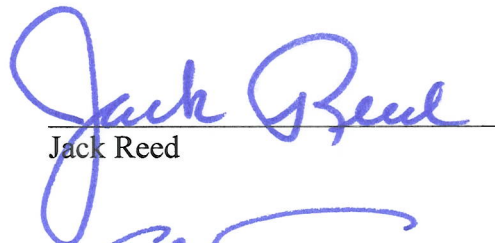

Benjamin L. Cardin


Bernard Sanders

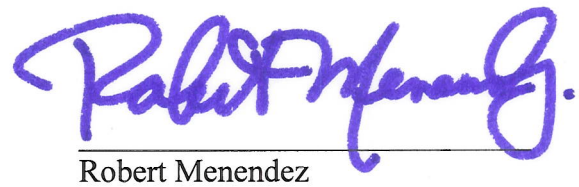

Richard J. Durbin


Debbie Stabenow


Tammy Baldwin


Jack Reed

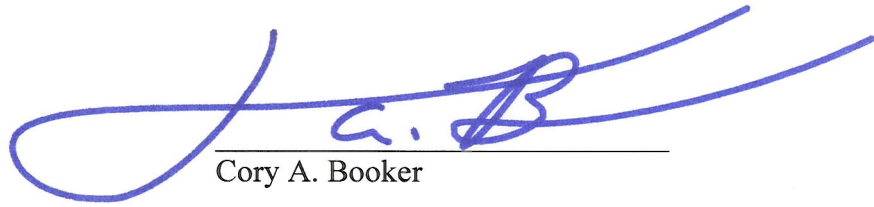

Al Franken


Robert Menendez


Christopher Murphy



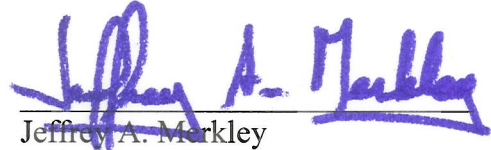
John D. Rockefeller, IV



Cory A. Booker



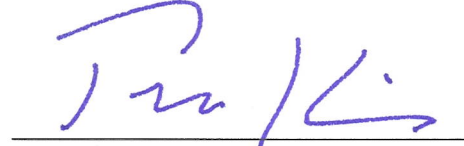
Richard Blumenthal



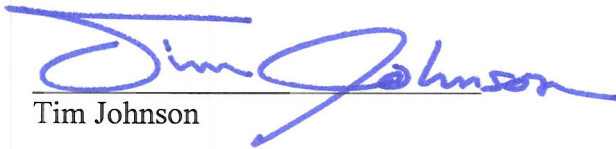
Jeffrey A. Merkley



Mark R. Warner



Tim Kaine



Tim Johnson