

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 23, 2012

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

Dear Chairman Murray and Ranking Member Collins:

As you near consideration of the Fiscal Year 2013 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 \$3.3 billion in formula funds for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) program.

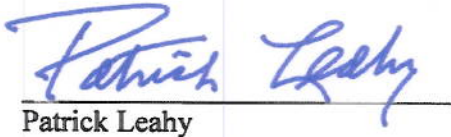
We thank you for your past support of this vital program. The CDBG program is the centerpiece of the Federal government's efforts to help approximately 1,200 entitlement cities, urban counties, and States meet the needs of low- and moderate-income communities. It is one of the most effective Federal 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 HUD, CDBG housing projects assisted 865,874 households over the past six years, which included providing financial assistance to new homeowners and rehabilitation assistance to the elderly and other existing homeowners. In addition, over the past six years, the program helped create and retain more than 259,000 jobs for low-and moderate income persons through a variety of economic development activities and provided vital public services to over 24 million persons.

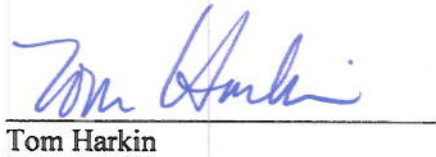
We understand the challenges facing the Subcommittee in meeting funding needs under the restrictions created by the Budget Control Act. However, we remain concerned about the impact past cuts have had on the program and the continued impact any additional cuts will have on the communities that rely on this funding to serve their most vulnerable residents. The CDBG formula allocation has been cut by over \$1 billion dollars since 2010 and is now at its lowest funding level since 1992. Because of the 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 cuts, 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 \$3.3 billion in the FY13 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.

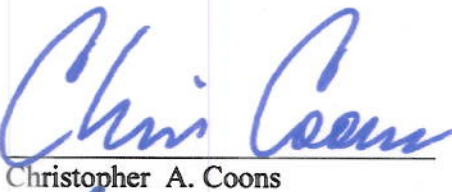
Sincerely,

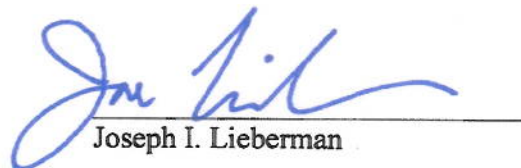
  
Patrick Leahy

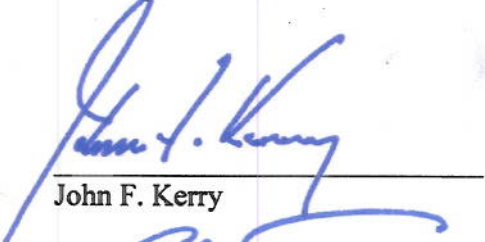
  
Mary L. Landrieu

  
Tom Harkin

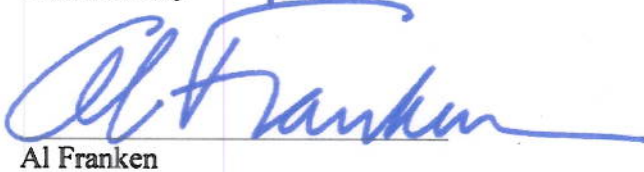
  
Ron Wyden

  
Christopher A. Coons

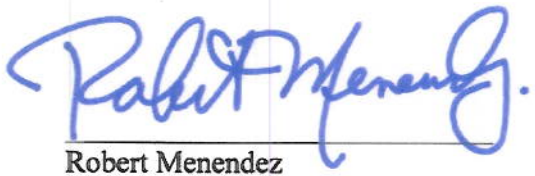
  
Joseph I. Lieberman

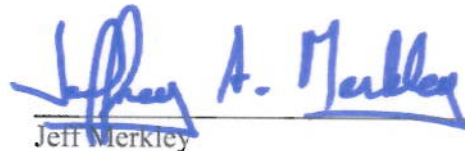
  
John F. Kerry

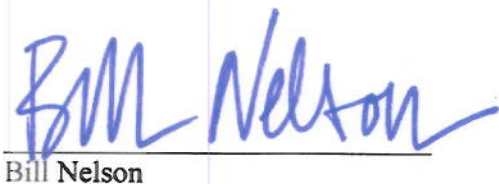
  
Sheldon Whitehouse

  
Al Franken

  
Kirsten E. Gillibrand


  
Robert Menendez

  
Jeff Merkley

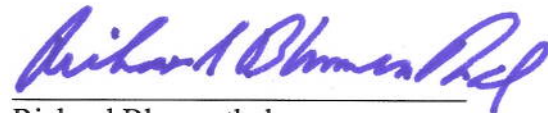
  
Bill Nelson

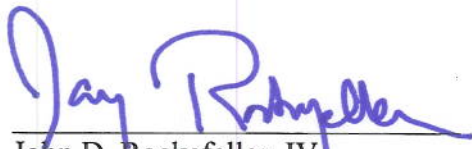
  
Debbie Stabenow

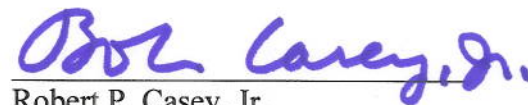
  
Mark Begich


  
Bernard Sanders

  
Carl Levin

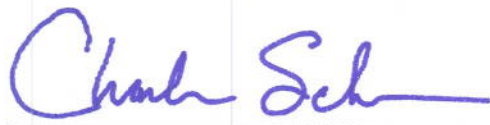
  
Richard Blumenthal


  
John D. Rockefeller, IV

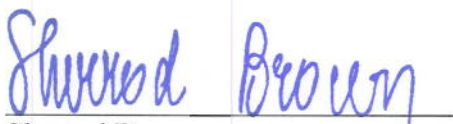
  
Robert P. Casey, Jr.

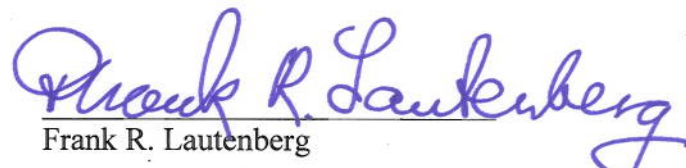
  
Jeanne Shaheen

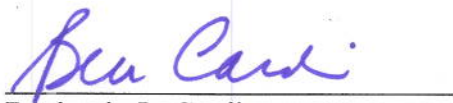
  
Scott P. Brown

  
Charles E. Schumer

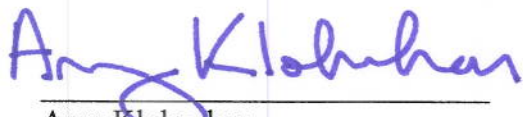
  
Jack Reed

  
Sherrod Brown

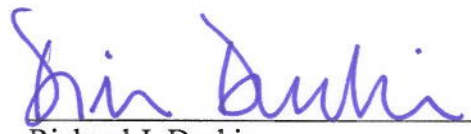
  
Frank R. Lautenberg

  
Benjamin L. Cardin

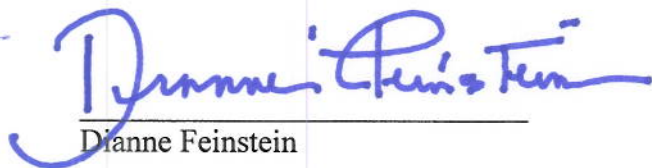
  
Barbara Boxer



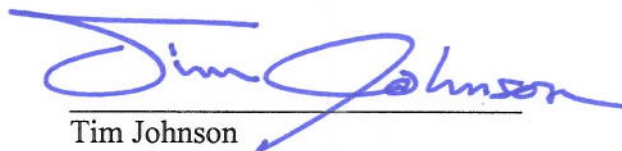
Amy Klobuchar



Richard J. Durbin



Dianne Feinstein



Tim Johnson



Daniel K. Akaka



Maria Cantwell