

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 26, 2013

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 2014 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 the Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) program.

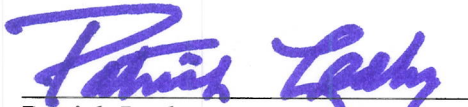
We thank you for your past support of this vital program. The CDBG program is the centerpiece of the Federal government's efforts to help approximately 1,200 entitlement cities, urban counties, and States meet the needs of low- and moderate-income communities. It is one of the most effective Federal 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.

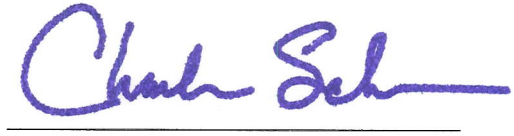
According to HUD, CDBG housing projects assisted more than 865,000 households over the past six years, which included providing financial assistance to new homeowners and rehabilitation assistance to the elderly and other existing homeowners. In addition, over the past six years, the program has helped 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.

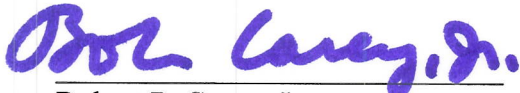
We understand that difficult decisions face the Subcommittee in meeting funding needs under the restrictions created by the Budget Control Act. However, we remain concerned about the impact past cuts have had on the program and the continued impact any additional cuts will have on the communities that rely on this funding to serve their most vulnerable residents. The CDBG formula allocation has been cut by over \$1 billion dollars since 2010 and is at its lowest funding level in more than a decade. 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 FY14 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,

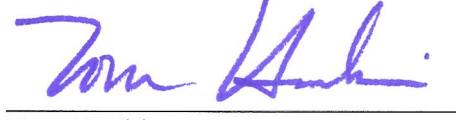

Patrick Leahy

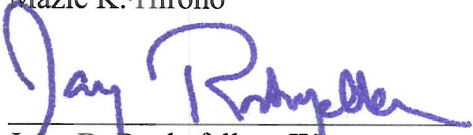

Charles E. Schumer

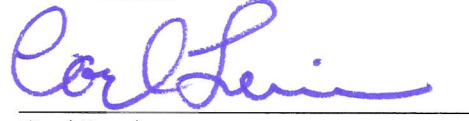

Robert P. Casey, Jr.

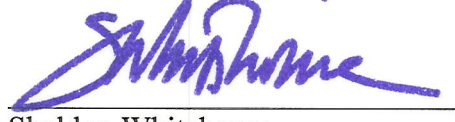

Richard Blumenthal


Mazie K. Hirono

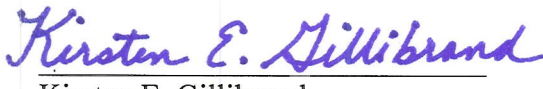

Tom Harkin

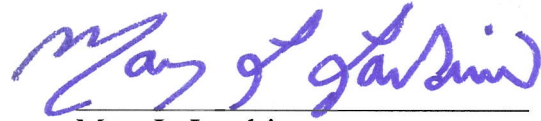

John D. Rockefeller, IV


Carl Levin



Sheldon Whitehouse



Bernard Sanders



Kirsten E. Gillibrand

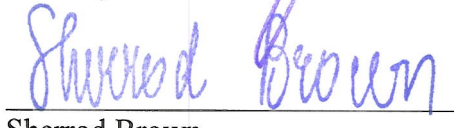

Mary L. Landrieu

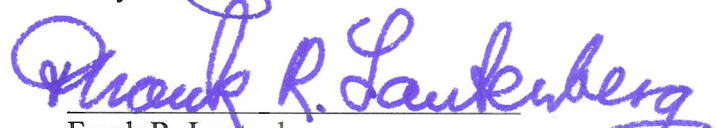

Benjamin L. Cardin

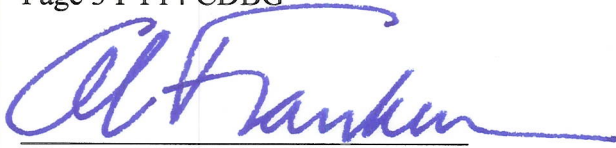

Bill Nelson


Ron Wyden

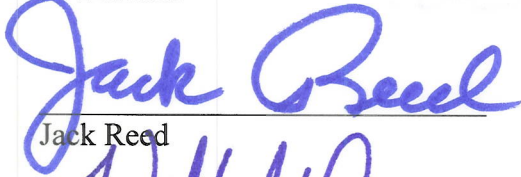

Amy Klobuchar


Sherrod Brown

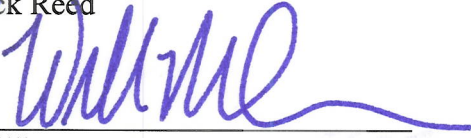

Frank R. Lautenberg



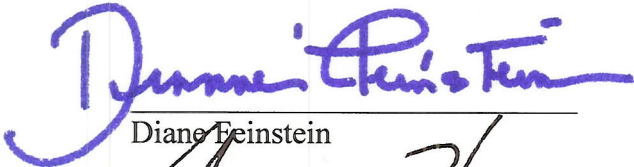
Al Franken



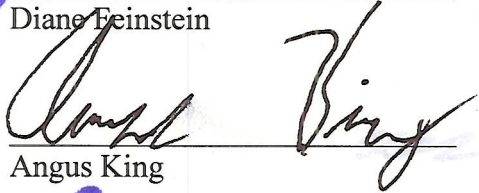
Jack Reed



William M. Cowan



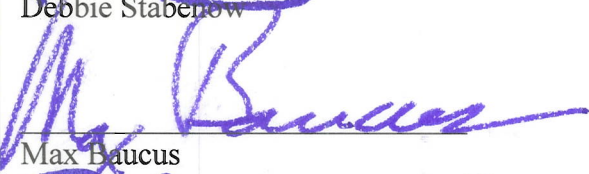
Diane Feinstein



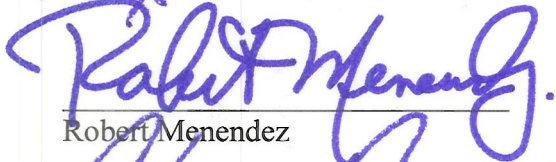
Angus King



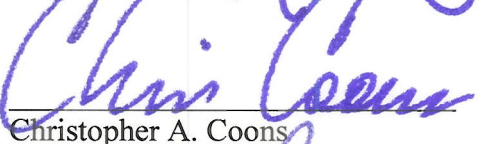
Debbie Stabenow



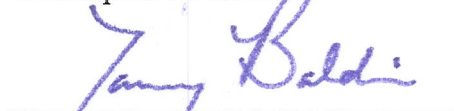
Max Baucus



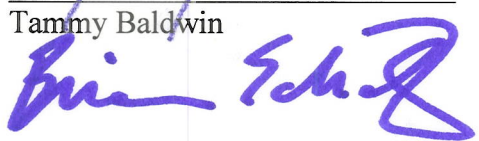
Robert Menendez



Christopher A. Coons




Tammy Baldwin



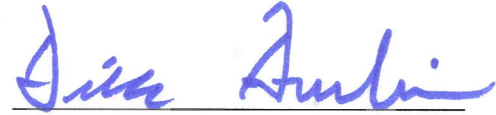
Brian Schatz



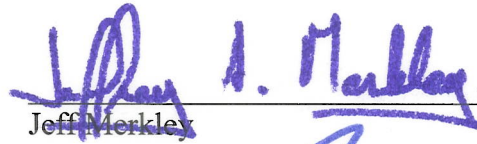
Elizabeth Warren



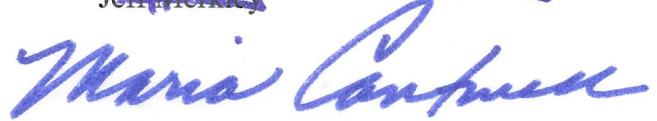
Jeanne Shaheen



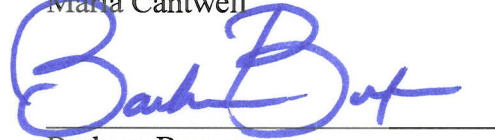
Richard J. Durbin



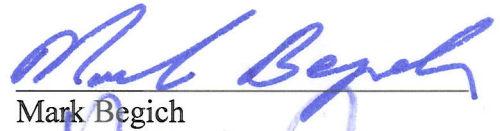
Jeff Merkley



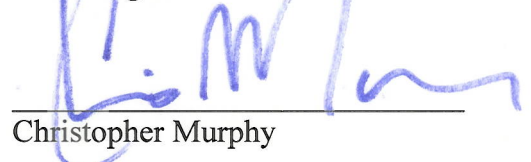
Maria Cantwell



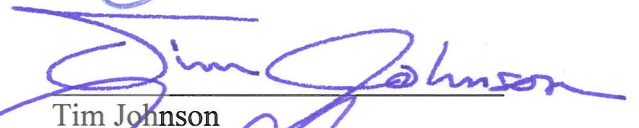
Barbara Boxer



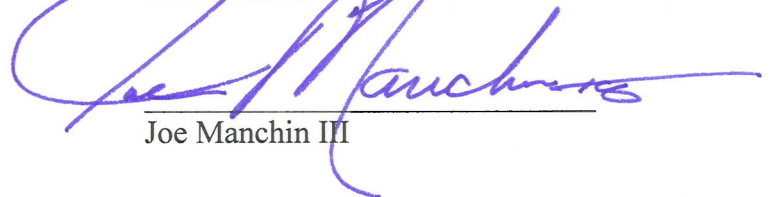
Mark Begich



Christopher Murphy



Tim Johnson



Joe Manchin III