

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

October 5, 2001

The Honorable Richard A. Gephardt
Democratic Leader
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Leader:

We are in strong support of your efforts to produce a stimulus package to deal with the current recession, and to do all that you can to see that this package reflects our genuine societal needs. As Members of the House who have been particularly concerned with housing and community development, among other things, we write to urge that at least \$6 billion of the expenditure in this package be dedicated to these purposes. There are several existing housing and community development programs which will give us both the social and fiscal impacts that should be part of the subsidy package. That is, there are existing programs which meet important needs of our communities, and the low and moderate income people who live within them, and can also be expanded very rapidly, without long lead times or significant inefficiencies.

While the recession has caused a downturn in many economic indicators, housing costs still remain far above what many people can afford, and the unemployment and income losses of the current recession have exacerbated the housing crisis for many Americans. And many of our communities find themselves facing a new shortfall in anticipated revenues that make it hard for them to meet basic needs.

We therefore propose that money be made available in the subsidy package to three programs which are ongoing, which can easily be expanded, and which meet a wide variety of housing and community needs.

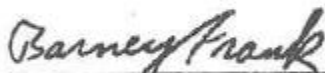
Specifically, we urge that \$2 billion be made available in the public housing accounts for both operation and maintenance and repair; \$2 billion be put into the community development block grant program under the existing formula; and \$2 billion be put into the HOME program.

Public Housing Authorities all over the country have a shelf of short-term repair projects which could easily absorb a great deal of money in a short period of time, enhancing the lives of residents and providing employment. In addition, increasing the operating budget will allow public housing to expand immediately the employment of some low income people, and will compensate for the administration's refusal to fund the public housing drug elimination program. Secondly, we urge that \$2 billion be made available to the community development block grant program which can once again be quickly spent by a variety of communities on important

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projects that cities might otherwise have to forgo given their revenue crunch and finally we ask for \$2 billion for the home program for the expansion and rehabilitation of our housing supply, particularly once again in short-term ways that can be helpful.

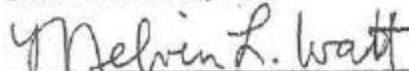
Sincerely,



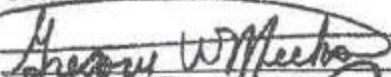
Barney Frank, M.C.



Bernard Sanders, M.C.



Melvin Watt, M.C.



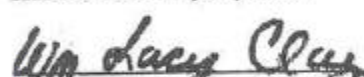
Gregory W. Meeks, M.C.



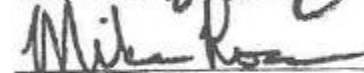
Stephanie Tubbs Jones, M.C.



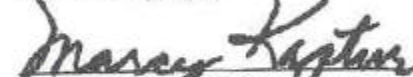
Harold E. Ford, Jr., M.C.



William Lacy Clay, M.C.



Mike Ross, M.C.



Marcy Kaptur, M.C.



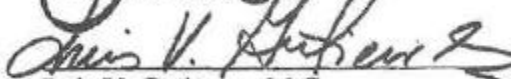
Maurice D. Hinchey, M.C.



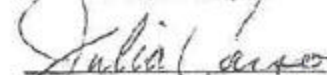
Chaka Fattah, M.C.



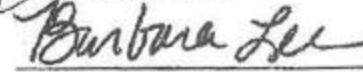
John J. LaFalce, M.C.



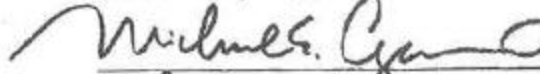
Luis V. Gutierrez, M.C.



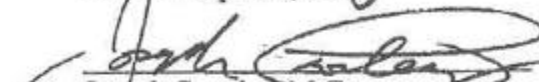
Julia Carson, M.C.



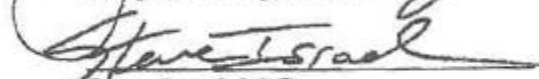
Barbara Lee, M.C.



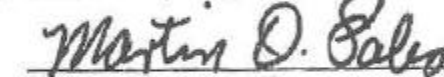
Michael Capuano, M.C.



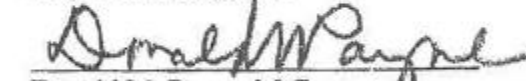
Joseph Crowley, M.C.



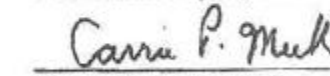
Steve Israel, M.C.



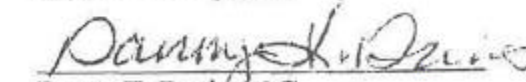
Martin O. Sabo, M.C.



Donald M. Payne, M.C.

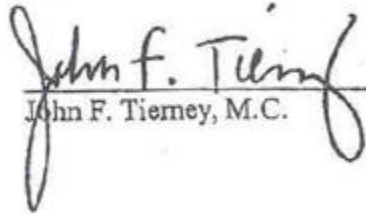


Carrie P. Meek, M.C.



Danny K. Davis, M.C.

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John F. Tierney, M.C.


Charles A. Gonzalez, M.C.