

August 5, 2002

The Honorable

Dear Senator/Representative _____

This letter is to thank you for your support of HUD's housing and community development programs, particularly the CDBG, HOME and homelessness programs in the Community Planning and Development division. These programs are critical to local governments in maintaining decent housing, adequate infrastructure, viable neighborhoods and economic opportunities, especially for lower income persons. With increasing tighter local budgets, these programs are often the only source of funds available to undertake improvements in lower income areas. Without them, there would be no housing rehabilitation programs for elderly residents, or child care facilities for working parents, or parks and playgrounds in lower income neighborhoods.

As you begin your summer recess and district work period the City of _____ seeks your continued support of HUD's programs by allocating \$5 billion in formula funding for the CDBG program \$2.25 billion in formula for the HOME program and \$1.5 billion for HUD's homelessness programs. We have included examples of the types of projects and activities we have funded with these programs and invite you to visit us, at your convenience, to tour some of these projects. We feel that without actually visiting the project sites, one cannot really get a true sense of how important these programs are to people in your district.

We recognize the enormous constraints on the federal budget this year— the events of September 11, the creation of the new office of Homeland Security, the war on terrorism, and the sluggish economy. Still, it is imperative that we continue to assist our citizens at home, in our cities and neighborhoods. This request for continued and increased funding for HUD's programs is not made lightly. Millions of households live in substandard housing or pay more than 50% of their incomes for rent. Still, many others are without housing altogether. We must ensure that our nation's most vulnerable populations are protected, and you can ensure that this happens by supporting programs like CDBG and HOME. Homeland security begins by making decent housing, safe neighborhoods, and economic opportunity available to all Americans, which is the reason why HUD and the programs it administers was created.

Thank you all of the hard work and we hope to see you this summer.

Sincerely,