

November 8, 2011

The Honorable Daniel Inouye  
The Honorable Thad Cochran  
The Honorable Patty Murray  
The Honorable Susan Collins  
The Honorable Hal Rogers  
The Honorable Norm Dicks  
The Honorable Tom Latham  
The Honorable John Olver

RE: H.R. 2112 – Disaster Funding

Dear Conferees:

As you conference H.R. 2112, we urge you to allow the \$400 million in CDBG disaster assistance approved by the Senate to come out of the emergency allowance provided for in the Budget Authority Act. *We urge you to not offset the CDBG emergency disaster assistance with other program funds, such as CDBG formula funds.* CDBG formula funds were cut by 17% in FY11 – the lowest funding level since 1992; yet, the number of grantees and beneficiaries have risen dramatically. Communities need and rely on CDBG formula funds to meet some of their most pressing economic development, affordable housing, and services needs for their low-income citizens.

The Budget Authority Act allows for Congress annually to provide emergency funding equal to the average of the disaster funding spent over the last ten years – in addition to the caps placed on discretionary spending bills. That means for FY12 Congress can provide up to \$11.3 billion in emergency funding – on top of the top line caps that all of the FY12 appropriations bills are subject to. We support, as recommended by the Senate, that the \$400 million in CDBG disaster funding come out of this \$11.3 billion emergency allowance.

Sincerely,

U.S. Conference of Mayors  
National Association of Counties  
American Planning Association  
Council of State Community Development Agencies  
Habitat for Humanity International  
National Association for County Community and Economic Development  
National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials  
National Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies  
National Community Development Association  
Rebuilding Together  
YWCA USA

