December 12, 2013

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: FY14 Funding for CDBG and HOME

Dear Senator Mikulski:

Thank you for your strong support of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and the HOME Investments Partnership (HOME) Program. As you work to complete the FY14 spending bills, we ask that you continue your support by ensuring that the programs receive the Senate Appropriations Committee recommended level of $3.150 billion for CDBG formula grants and $1.0 billion for HOME in FY14.

Both programs have suffered severe cuts over the past several years; CDBG has been cut by nearly $1 billion since FY10 and HOME has been reduced by over $800 million. As a past local elected official, you know how important both programs are to helping the most vulnerable in our communities with needed services, housing, basic infrastructure, and economic opportunities. The programs also spur additional investment in our nation's most distressed communities. It will be difficult for the programs to sustain another round of cuts.

The undersigned organizations, representing thousands of communities and agencies which rely on CDBG and HOME, seek your help in protecting the programs in the FY14 spending bill. We have attached some quick facts that demonstrate the effectiveness of the programs and the wide swath of people helped by the programs.

We thank you for your leadership and support of both of these programs.

Sincerely,

American Planning Association
Council of State Community Development Agencies
Feeding America
Habitat for Humanity International
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
National Association for County Community and Economic Development
National Association of Counties

National Association of Development Organizations
National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials
National Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies
National Community Development Association
National League of Cities
National Rural Housing Coalition
National Urban League
Rebuilding Together
U.S. Conference of Mayors
YWCA USA

cc: Senator Richard Shelby
Senator Patty Murray
Senator Susan Collins

Attachment: CDBG and HOME Facts

<u>CDBG Facts</u>

•Nearly 1,200 state and local governments receive CDBG funds.

•CDBG is a jobs generator. Between FY05-FY12, CDBG created/ retained 302,622 jobs.

•CDBG leverages other funds. For every $1.00 of CDBG investment, another $3.55 in private and public dollars is leveraged.

•CDBG provides safe, decent, affordable housing. Between FY05-FY12, CDBG assisted over one million low- and moderate-income homeowners rehabilitate their homes, provided down payment and closing cost assistance to qualified home buyers, and assisted homeowners with lead-based paint abatement.

•CDBG provides crucial public improvements to communities. Between FY05-FY12, CDBG public improvements benefitted over 30 million low- and moderate-income people nationwide. These public improvements included senior centers, child care centers, group homes for persons with disabilities, shelters for victims of domestic violence and homeless veterans, health clinics providing vaccinations and dental care to low-income children, sanitary water and sewer systems, safe streets, and improved drainage systems, among others.

•CDBG provides needed public services. Between FY05-FY12, CDBG provided public services to over 95 million low- and moderate-income households. These services included employment training, meals and other services to the elderly, services to help abused and neglected children, assistance to local food banks, and many other services.

<u>HOME Facts</u>

•Over 600 state and local government receive HOME funds.

•HOME creates affordable housing. Since 1992, the program has created over one million units of decent, safe, affordable housing.

•HOME assists extremely-low income populations. More than 50% of HOME funds have assisted very-low income and extremely low-income households.

•HOME leverages other funds. For every $1.00 dollar of investment, another $4.00 in public and private resources is leveraged.