

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 23rd, 2005

The Honorable Joe Knollenberg
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Treasury and HUD, the Judiciary,
District of Columbia
Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Olver
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Treasury and HUD, the Judiciary,
District of Columbia
Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Knollenberg and Ranking Member Olver:

We are writing to urge you to provide \$4.732 billion – level funding – for the Community Development Block Grant program and adequately fund other HUD programs in fiscal year 2006. The Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) community development and housing programs build homeownership, support neighborhood revitalization and increase access to affordable housing. These activities not only help individual communities, but also strengthen our nation's economy as a whole.

As you know, the House recently expressed strong support for these programs in the budget resolution for FY2006 by assuming increased funding for community and regional development by \$1.1 billion to accommodate higher appropriations for programs such as the Community Development Block Grant. We hope you will take this into consideration and provide at least \$4.732 billion – level funding – for CDBG and related programs in fiscal year 2006, while supporting the President's funding request for Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers and homeless assistance and providing adequate funding for other HUD programs.

CDBG is one of the most effective federal domestic programs in helping to revitalize neighborhoods. In FY2004, over 95 percent of CDBG funds went to activities principally benefiting low-and moderate-income persons. Twenty-eight percent of CDBG funds supported housing activities in distressed communities, 24 percent supported public improvements, 15 percent went to the provision of public services, and 7 percent supported economic development activities. CDBG housing projects assisted 168,938 households. Public service projects funded with CDBG served 13,312,631 individuals. Economic development programs funded by CDBG in FY2004 created or retained 90,637 jobs for Americans. Public improvement projects benefited 9,453,993 persons. CDBG also has a strong record in business retention: CDBG ensured over 80 percent of the businesses assisted through the program were still in operation after three years.

Past experience teaches us that integrating community development programs with housing programs improves the overall effort to deliver services and create new opportunities for the American people; therefore, it is important that level funding is also provided for HUD's housing programs. HUD's housing programs assist millions of families around the country. The voucher program alone serves over 2 million families. Without housing assistance, many families would

lack the stability to find and retain employment, and many children would be unable to adequately perform in school because of multiple moves or health problems induced by inadequate housing.

CDBG, coupled with HUD's housing and homeless programs, provide communities with a comprehensive approach to help states, counties, cities, and rural communities meet the needs of low-income communities. Congress created CDBG to consolidate a number of complex and overlapping financial assistance programs in order to encourage community development activities which are consistent with comprehensive local and area-wide development planning, and to further the national housing goal of a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family. CDBG works in tandem with Section 8, public housing, homeless assistance grants, and the HOME program to meet these goals. Together they create a web of programs designed to strengthen our communities, and all need adequate funding to be successful.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you to ensure that communities across the country can provide good jobs, safe neighborhoods, affordable housing, and public services to meet the needs of all Americans.

Sincerely,

Jim Hunter

Johnston

Shelley Bushley

Michael H. Michael

Walter R. Allen

Jim Simmons

Jim McRae

Anthony

Don Carl

Seamus

Bill Roroff

Laura M. Slayton

Ale E. Wilson

Jan Schak

Barbara Rubin

[Signature]

Tom Allen

Bob [Signature]

John Spate

Ron Kind

Norm Acker

Pat [Signature]

Marty Mark

Linda Stanley

Jan [Signature]

Cheryl [Signature]

Tij Z.

Robt Emanuel

Vin Snyder

Dwain [Signature]

Miri V. Gutierrez

Nancy Penui

Charles Rangel

Alayne Waters

Don Hingell

Donis O. Matsui

Barcl Gordon

Sebastian Sene

Lynn Alwobey

Sam Frank

Paul Joseph

Bob H. Kern

Arnold Nadler

Lucille Roybal-Allard

Mike Rahn

Major R. Owens

John Fark

Greg V. Costello

Rosa C. J. Lee

Jim Moran

Chris Smith

Ralph M. Hall

Jane Harman

Nancy Johnson

Tom Lantos

(Sally) Lush

Tim Holden

John Cuyers

Bob Filner

Sanford Bishop

Dale Harty

Montgomery

Jack

John Keyser

Mike McIntyre

Bob Key

Corine Brown

Earl Blumenauer

Quinta Alexander-Turner

William Delahunt

Shelley Moore Capito

Eddie Bernice Johnson

Leann L. Brown

Brian Babin

Ken Lewis

Mrs Van Hollen

Sunny Hanford

Tom Udall

Ronia A. White

Raul M. Grijalva

Grace E. Kapeluto

John T. Halayan

Emil C.

Julia Carson

Thad A. McCotter

Ed Royce

C.A. Dutch Ruppersburg

Ben Chandler

Hilda L. Solis

Ed Bault

Joseph Allen

Myron H. Kelly

Robert Menard

Elijah E. Cummings

Ed Hall

Ed Toms.

Howard L. Berman

Harold A. Weisman

William R. McWhorter

Donald Payne

Ben Cardin

George Miller

Sen Kelly

Carl C. Peterson

Emil L. Engel

Hai Pin

Wendell

El Markey

Melvin R. Watt

Brian Higgin

Allyson G. Schwartz

Jim Davis

Andy Coleman

Mike Doyle

Tommy Baldoni

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Jim McConnett

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Ellen Fauscher

Bond S.

Richard Shaw

Phil Dugrey

Jim Langwin

Carolyn McCarthy

Joe Lopez

John F. Tierney

Ed Case

Diane E. Watson

Wm. Lacy Clay

Hyd Doggett

Shoo

Ala a Brady

Robert Wexler

Janice Paden

Tim Ryan

Bob Boxer

Al Smith

Pat Stark

Mark Udall

John

Mit Rom

Amelia

Gene S. Schiff

Paul S. Joseph

Joe Bann

Erphane F. Huset

Fred Strickland

Al Lewis

Mike Doyle

Jim Marshall

Melissa J. Bear

Charles W. Dent

Bob Bury

Ed Wharf

Arthur Davis

Tom Murphy

Harold

Bob Johnson

Mike Thompson

John W. McHugh

Al Green

Michael Mando

Dennis J. Kucinich

Al (Barkley) Jr.

Susan A. Davis

Fred Myton

Barbara Lee

Paul Rie

Lois Cypess

Daniel Lipinski

Bess Carnah

Loretta Sanchez

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2. Allen, Tom
3. Baca, Joe
4. Baird, Brian
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6. Barrow, John
7. Bean, Melissa
8. Beauprez, Bob
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10. Berkley, Shelley
11. Berman, Howard
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13. Bishop, Tim
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15. Boehlert, Sherwood
16. Bordallo, Madeleine
17. Boswell, Leonard
18. Boustany, Charles
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21. Capito, Shelley Moore
22. Capps, Lois
23. Capuano, Michael
24. Cardin, Ben
25. Cardoza, Dennis
26. Carnahan, Russ
27. Carson, Julia
28. Case, Ed
29. Chandler, Ben
30. Clay, William Lacy
31. Cleaver, Emanuel
32. Conyers, John
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34. Costello, Jerry
35. Crowley, Joseph
36. Cubin, Barbara
37. Cummings, Elijah
38. Davis, Artur
39. Davis, Danny
40. Davis, Jim
41. Davis, Susan
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45. DeLauro, Rosa
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51. Emanuel, Rahm
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53. Eshoo, Anna
54. Fattah, Chaka
55. Filner, Bob
56. Fitzpatrick, Michael
57. Ford, Harold
58. Frank, Barney
59. Gingrey, Phil
60. Gonzalez, Charles
61. Gordon, Bart
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64. Gutierrez, Luis
65. Hall, Ralph
66. Harman, Jane
67. Hayworth, J.D.
68. Herseth, Stephanie
69. Higgins, Brian
70. Hinchey, Maurice
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77. Jefferson, William
78. Johnson, Eddie Bernice
79. Johnson, Nancy
80. Kelly, Sue
81. Kennedy, Patrick
82. Kildee, Dale
83. Kind, Ron
84. King, Peter
85. Kucinich, Dennis
86. Langevin, James
87. Lantos, Tom
88. LaTourette, Steven
89. Lee, Barbara
90. Levin, Sander
91. Lewis, John
92. Lipinski, Daniel

93. Lofgren, Zoe
94. Lynch, Stephen
95. Markey, Edward
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97. Matsui, Doris
98. McCarthy, Carolyn
99. McCollum, Betty
100. McCotter, Thaddeus
101. McDermott, Jim
102. McGovern, James
103. McHugh, John
104. McIntyre, Mike
105. McKeon, Buck
106. McNulty, Michael
107. Meehan, Martin
108. Meek, Kendrick
109. Melancon, Charlie
110. Menendez, Robert
111. Michaud, Michael
112. Millender-McDonald, Juanita
113. Miller, Brad
114. Miller, George
115. Moore, Gwen
116. Moran, Jim
117. Murphy, Tim
118. Nadler, Jerrold
119. Napolitano, Grace
120. Neal, Richard
121. Ney, Robert
122. Norton, Eleanor-Holmes
123. Oberstar, James
124. Owens, Major
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127. Payne, Donald
128. Pelosi, Nancy
129. Peterson, Collin
130. Pomeroy, Earl
131. Porter, Jon
132. Price, David
133. Rahall, Nick
134. Rangel, Charles
135. Reyes, Silvestre
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138. Ruppertsberger, Dutch

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140. Ryan, Tim
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142. Sanchez, Linda
143. Sanchez, Loretta
144. Sanders, Bernard
145. Schakowsky, Jan
146. Schiff, Adam
147. Schwartz, Allyson
148. Scott, Robert
149. Shays, Chris
150. Sherman, Brad
151. Simmons, Rob
152. Slaughter, Louise
153. Smith, Adam
154. Smith, Chris
155. Snyder, Vic
156. Solis, Hilda
157. Spratt, John
158. Stark, Peter
159. Strickland, Ted
160. Stupak, Bart
161. Tauscher, Ellen
162. Terry, Lee
163. Thompson, Mike
164. Tierney, John
165. Towns, Edolphus
166. Tubbs-Jones, Stephanie
167. Udall, Mark
168. Udall, Tom
169. Upton, Fred
170. VanHollen, Chris
171. Velazquez, Nydia,
172. Waters, Maxine
173. Watson, Diane
174. Watt, Melvin L.
175. Waxman, Henry
176. Weiner, Anthony
177. Wexler, Robert
178. Whitfield, Ed
179. Woolsey, Lynn
180. Wu, David
181. Wynn, Albert