

Date

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Funding Threats to CDBG

Representative/Senator \_\_\_\_\_:

As the **chief elected official/community development director of \_\_\_\_\_**, I am writing this letter on behalf of our community to express our support for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and to voice our opposition to any threatened cuts or elimination of this program in FY 2019. Any reduction in CDBG funding would severely slow down or eliminate thousands of local and state projects and programs that are vital to the country's affordable housing stock and economic health.

Local governments use CDBG funds for critical community development activities including, infrastructure improvements such as roads, water and sewer systems; expanding homeownership opportunities; eliminating slum and blight; employment training; business and job creation; transportation services; services at libraries, community centers, adult day care and child and after school care facilities; homeless housing assistance; and crime awareness programs. According to HUD, every \$1 million in CDBG funding supports nearly 26 jobs and since 2005, CDBG program resources have created over 300,000 jobs.

In one year alone CDBG supported the rehabilitation of nearly 95,000 homes and financed public improvement projects that benefitted an estimated 3.3 million residents in communities from coast to coast. This important housing, community and economic development program has been a catalyst for economic growth and has helped local officials leverage funds for community needs.

The Trump Administration's budget has proposed the elimination of the entire CDBG program, however, at a time when our nation's infrastructure is ailing and our country is enduring an affordable housing crisis. It is more important now than ever to increase CDBG funding to give communities the ability to address their infrastructure, housing and economic development needs at the local level. We ask you to oppose any legislation that would eliminate or reduce funding for CDBG in FY 2019. We would also like to extend an invitation to you and your staff to tour our CDBG-funded projects to see the benefits of the program firsthand.

We thank you, in advance, for your support of CDBG. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,