

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 23, 2015

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing and Urban Development,
and Related Agencies
2358-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Price
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation
Housing and Urban Development,
and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Diaz-Balart and Ranking Member Price:

As the subcommittee develops its FY2016 appropriations bill, we respectfully urge you to prioritize commitment for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, one of the most effective federal programs for growing local economies and for providing a lifeline to families and communities, with proven results. **We request the subcommittee provide at least \$3.3 billion in formula funding for CDBG.**

Since FY 2005, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has collected accomplishment data for the CDBG program. The data highlight the program's flexibility to design and implement strategies tailored to meet local needs and priorities. It has provided funds in every state, including housing investments, public infrastructure improvements, and economic development, while also providing public services, including services for seniors, youth, the disabled, and employment training.

Despite being a key tool for aiding our communities, the CDBG program, like many programs, has taken a share of deep cuts in recent years, falling substantially—by nearly \$1 billion since FY2010. While the program helps more than 1,200 cities, counties, states, and rural areas meet the needs of low- and moderate-income people and communities, funding cuts have severely weakened the ability of grantees to revitalize their communities and respond to local need. We share your commitment to the most effective use of taxpayer dollars, and believe that these grants have proven highly effective. Based on the data that grantees have reported to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development over the past nine years (FY2005 – FY2014), CDBG has:

- Helped over 1.2 million low- and moderate-income persons through single-family, owner-occupied rehabilitation, homeownership assistance, energy-efficient improvements, and lead-based abatement, among other activities;
- Created or retained 353,237 jobs for low- and moderate-income people through a variety of economic development activities;
- Provided direct assistance to 220,695 businesses since FY07;

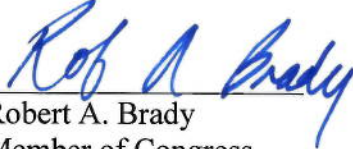
- Benefited nearly 37 million low- and moderate-income persons through public improvements including senior centers, child care centers, and centers for people with disabilities;
- Benefited over 114 million low- and moderate-income persons through public services such as employment training, meals and other services to the elderly, services for abused and neglected children, assistance to local food banks, and other services.

Additionally, every \$1.00 of CDBG leverages an additional \$4.07 in non-CDBG funding.

CDBG makes its way into the local economy through an extensive network of local organizations and remains a lifeline for families and communities. It is one federal program that touches the lives of nearly every American in some fashion. Over 7,200 communities have access to the funds and rely on the program to enhance their life and community. The pressing need in the current economy for these funds remains critical.

While we understand the difficult fiscal decisions we must make in Washington, we appreciate your consideration of this important request and strongly urge you to support at least \$3.3 billion for the CDBG program in FY16 to help grow local economies.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress



Lou Barletta
Member of Congress


James P. McGovern
Member of Congress


Peter T. King
Member of Congress


Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress


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Niki Tsongas

Niki Tsongas
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Alcee Hastings
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Mark Takai

Mark Takai
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Keith Ellison

Keith Ellison
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Juan Vargas

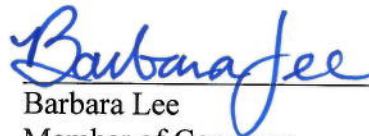
Juan Vargas
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Anna Eshoo

Anna Eshoo
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Julia Brownley
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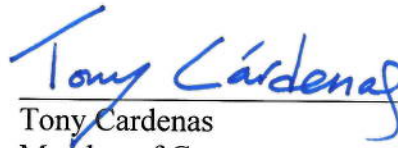
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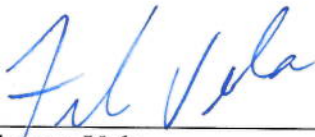
John Garamendi
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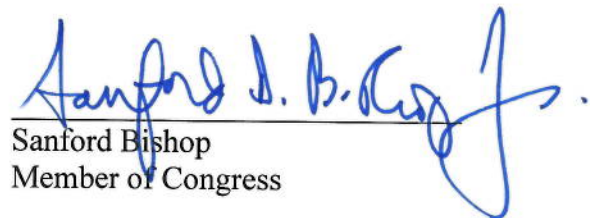
Filemon Vela
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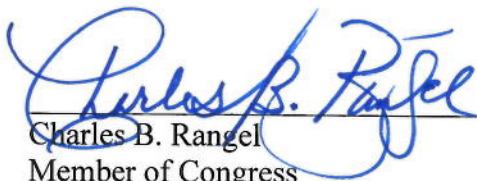
Judy Chu
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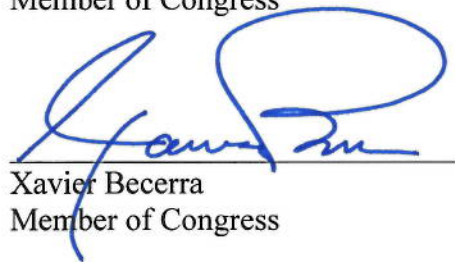
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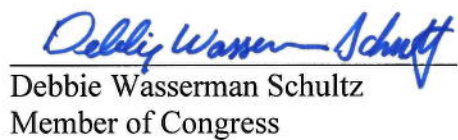

Alan Lowenthal
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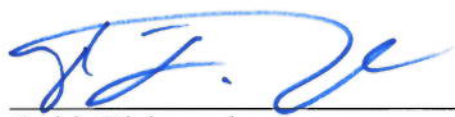

Xavier Becerra
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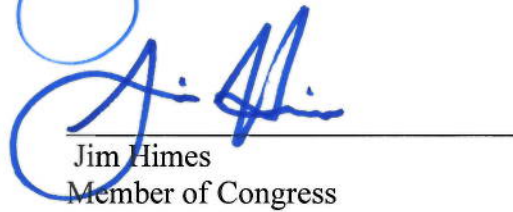

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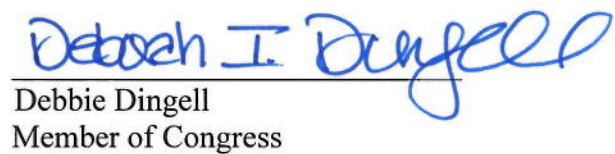

Janice Schakowsky
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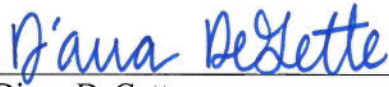

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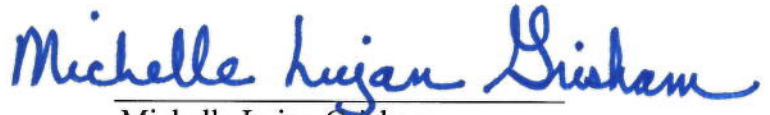
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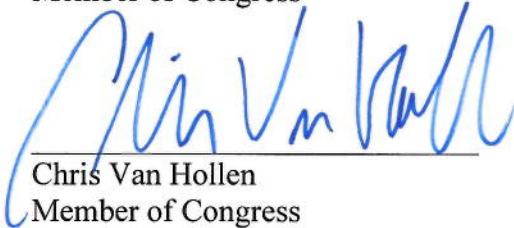
Michelle Lujan Grisham
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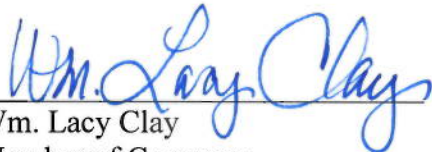
Danny K. Davis
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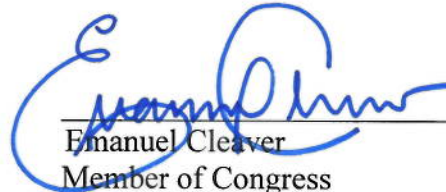
Joseph Kennedy III
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Wm. Lacy Clay
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Emanuel Cleaver
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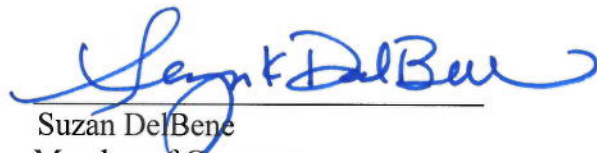
David Loebsack
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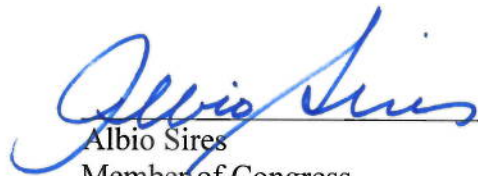
Tammy Duckworth
Member of Congress



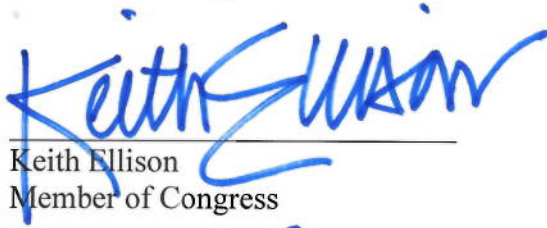
Suzan DelBene
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
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Albio Sires
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Keith Ellison
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Lois Capps
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Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress



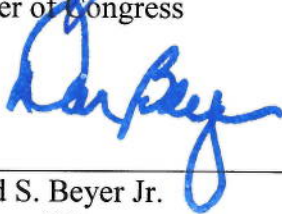
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William R. Keating
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Donald S. Beyer Jr.
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Ed Perlmutter
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Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



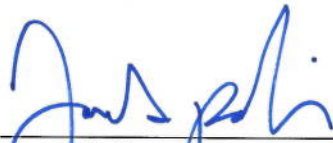
Raul Ruiz
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Timothy J. Walz
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Ami Bera
Member of Congress



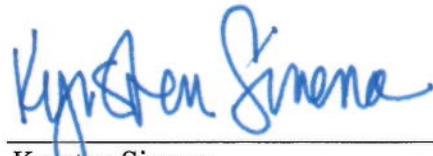
Jared Polis
Member of Congress



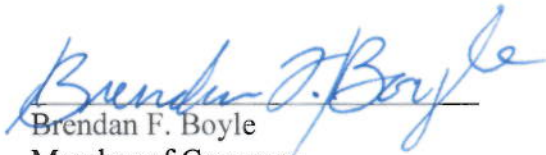
Scott Peters
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Ron Kind
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Kyrsten Sinema
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Brendan F. Boyle
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Suzanne Bonamici
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Joe Courtney
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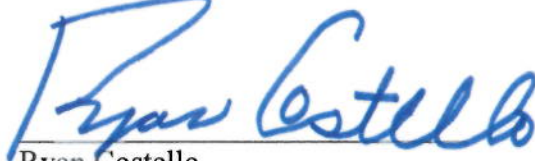
Jim Costa
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Donna F. Edwards
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Janice D. Schakowsky
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Ryan Costello
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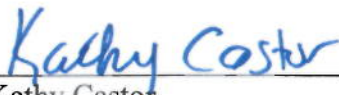
Alma S. Adams
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Cheri Bustos
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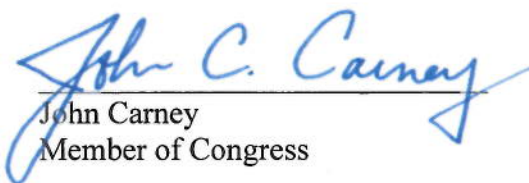
Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



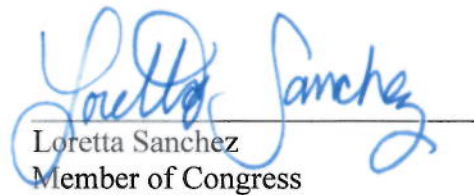
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Mike Doyle
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John Carney
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Loretta Sanchez
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Steve Cohen
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Joe Courtney
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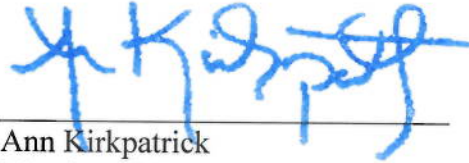
Frederica S. Wilson
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Mike Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



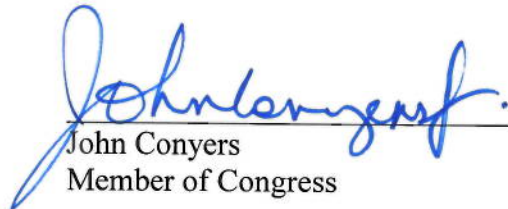
Earl Blumenauer
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Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress



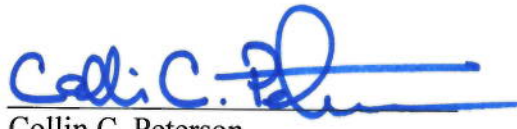
Joaquin Castro
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John Conyers
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Zoe Lofgren
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Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress



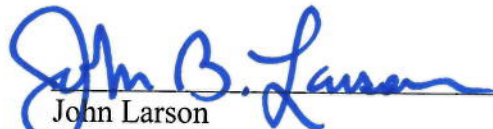
John Katko
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Gene Green
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Martha McSally
Member of Congress



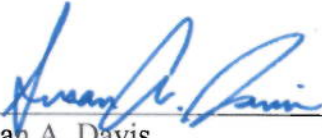
John Larson
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Seth Moulton
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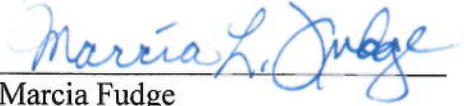
Dan Kildee
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Member of Congress



Will Hurd
Member of Congress



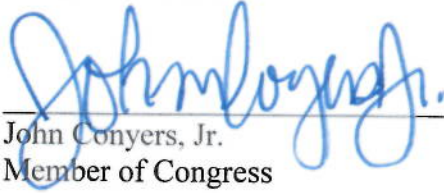
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Ted Lieu
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Sean Patrick Maloney
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John Conyers, Jr.
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