

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 17, 2016

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

The Honorable David Price
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing,
Urban Development and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Diaz-Balart and Ranking Member Price:

As you begin work on the fiscal year (FY) 2017 appropriations process, we respectfully request your consideration of the needs of the millions of low-income households across the United States without access to affordable housing. Specifically, we ask the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) Appropriations Subcommittee to restore HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funding to \$1.2 billion for FY 2017.

For over 20 years, HOME has proven to be one of the most effective, locally driven tools to help states and communities address their most pressing housing challenges. HOME is vital to communities working to meet the needs of low-income families and individuals in need of supportive housing, including veterans, persons with disabilities, seniors and persons experiencing homelessness. HOME is the only Federal housing program exclusively focused on addressing such a wide range of housing activities. States and local communities use HOME to fund new production where affordable housing is scarce, rehabilitation where housing quality is a challenge, rental assistance when affordable homes are available, and provide homeownership opportunities when those are most needed. Moreover, this flexibility means that states and communities can quickly react to changes in their local housing markets.

HOME funds serve as a critical resource for communities in all 50 states and in every congressional district. Since 1990, HOME has helped to create over 1.2 million housing units and provided tenant-based rental assistance to over 307,000 families. It works to meet the needs of low-income families and individuals lacking access to affordable housing, including veterans, persons with disabilities, seniors and those experiencing homelessness. Overseen by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the HOME program allows states and localities the freedom and the flexibility to respond to their most pressing housing needs in the way they see fit. HOME funds can be used in a variety of ways by participating jurisdictions, from rehabilitating owner-occupied housing, to assisting home buyers and developing affordable rental housing, as well as providing tenant-based rental assistance.

The HOME Program has demonstrated the remarkable ability to attract other monies to its affordable housing projects, leveraging \$4.20 of private and public dollars for every \$1 of HOME funding expended over the past twenty years. According to the HOME Coalition's recent report, this investment has supported an estimated 1.5 million jobs and generated \$94.2 billion in local income.

Despite this success, HOME has been cut in half in recent years from more than \$1.8 billion in 2010 to

\$900 million in 2015. Last year, HOME saw a modest increase in funding to \$950 million, but funding levels are still not robust enough to meet the critical need for affordable housing. Restoring HOME funding to \$1.2 billion must be a part of any effort to address the growing need for affordable housing by the one-in-four working renter households and the one- in-five working homeowners who spend more than half their incomes on housing costs each year.

The housing industry has and will continue to play a major role in our economic recovery. We urge you to restore HOME program funding to \$1.2 billion in order to help improve our economy and ensure every American has access to affordable housing.

Sincerely,



MARCIA L. FUDGE
Member of Congress



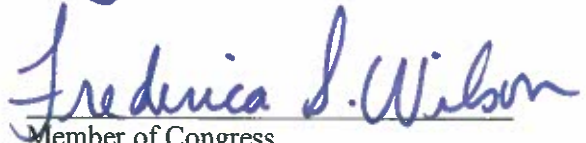
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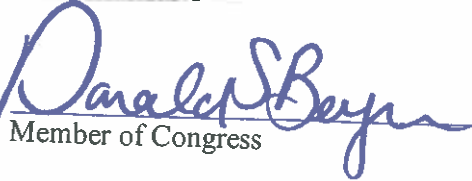
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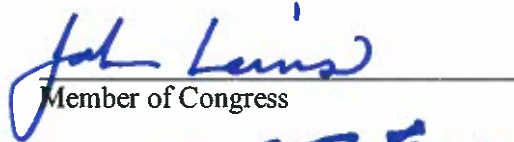
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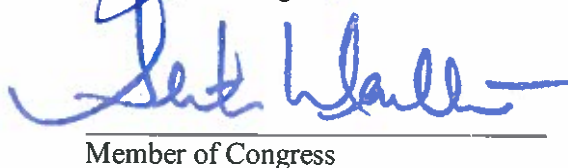

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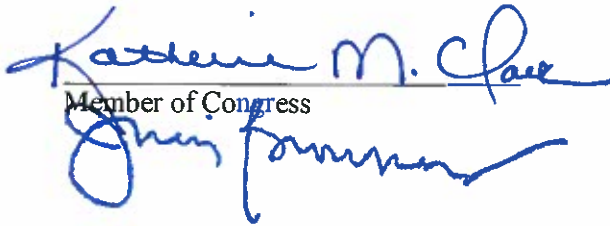

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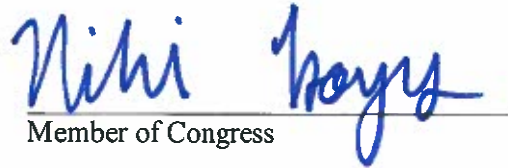

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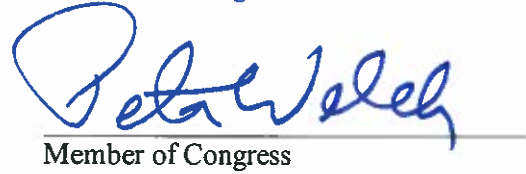

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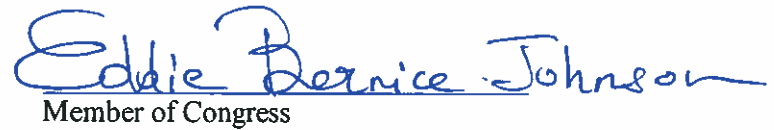
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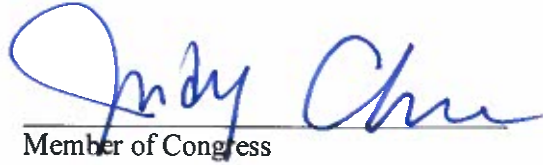
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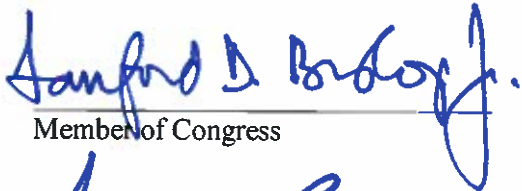
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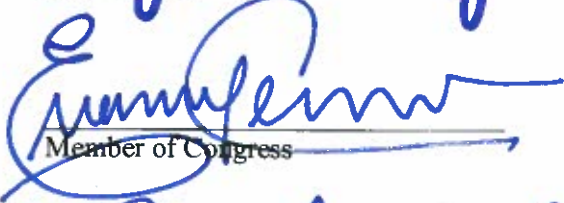
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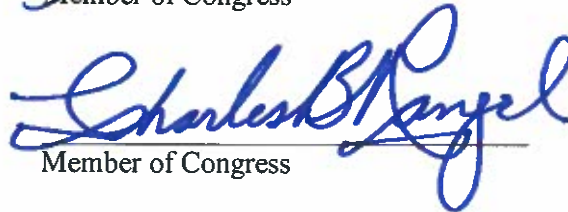
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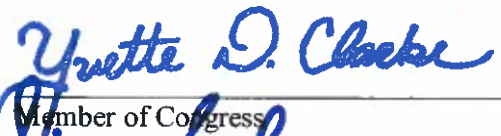
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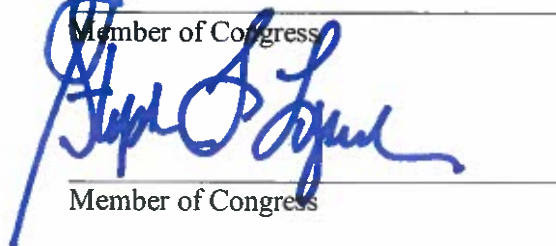
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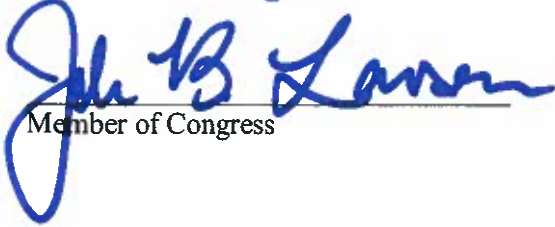
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