

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 21, 2005

Support the Community Development Block Grant Program

Dear Colleague:

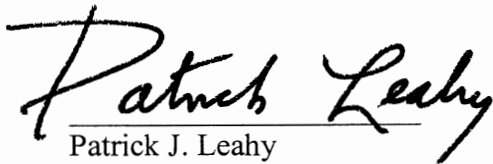
Please join us to support funding for the Community Development Block Grant and related programs at the Department of Housing and Urban Development in the Fiscal Year 2006 Transportation, Treasury, the Judiciary and HUD Appropriations Bill.

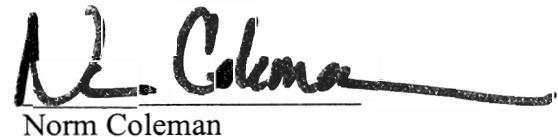
CDBG, coupled with HUD's housing and homeless programs, provide communities with a comprehensive approach to help states, counties, cities, and rural communities meet the needs of low-income communities. CDBG funds vital housing rehabilitation, supportive services, public improvements and economic development projects in communities across the nation. It also serves more than 1,100 entitlement communities, urban counties and states, and more than 3,000 rural communities. CDBG is one of the most effective Federal domestic programs to help revitalize neighborhoods with proven results.

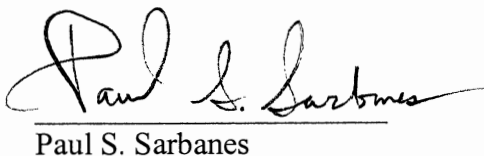
The Senate expressed strong bipartisan support for HUD's community development programs, passing an amendment to the Budget Resolution to restore funding to CDBG, the Section 108 Loan Guarantee program and the Brownfields Economic Development Initiative to last year's level of \$4.732 billion. We hope that you will join us in support of this effort by signing the letter to Senators Cochran, Byrd, Bond and Murray asking for a sufficient funding to the Transportation, Treasury, Judiciary, and HUD Subcommittee to fully fund these programs.

For more information, or to sign this letter, please have your staff contact Kris Sarri with the Northeast-Midwest Senate Coalition at 4-0606, Andrew Siracuse in Senator Coleman's office at 4-5641, or Chanda Betourney with Senator Leahy's office at 4-4242, by Friday, April 29, 2005.

Sincerely,

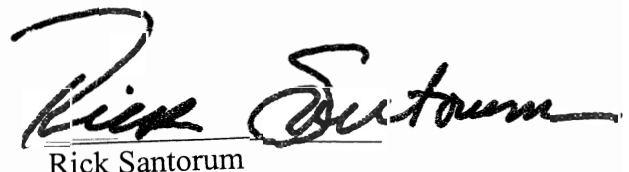

Patrick J. Leahy


Norm Coleman


Paul S. Sarbanes


Mike DeWine


Jack Reed


Rick Santorum

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 29, 2005

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd
Ranking Member
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Christopher Bond
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, Treasury, Judiciary
and HUD
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, Treasury, Judiciary
and HUD
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Colleagues:

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 free from discrimination. These activities not only help individual communities, but also strengthen our nation's economy as a whole. We urge you to provide a sufficient allocation to the Transportation, Treasury, Judiciary, and HUD Subcommittee to restore the Community Development Block Grant program and adequately fund other HUD programs in fiscal year 2006.

The Senate expressed strong bipartisan support for HUD's community development programs, passing an amendment to the Budget Resolution to fund the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, the Section 108 Loan Guarantee program and the Brownfields Economic Development Initiative at last year's level of \$4.732 billion, thereby fully restoring proposed cuts. We hope that the allocation to the Subcommittee will reflect the will of the Senate and provide the necessary funds to provide at least \$4.732 billion 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 FY 2004 created or

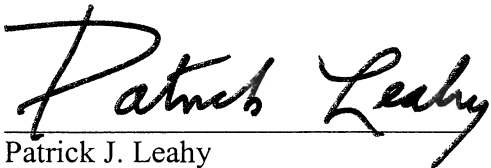
retained 90,637 jobs for Americans. Public improvement projects benefited 9,453,993 persons. CDBG also has a strong record in business retention: CDBG ensured that over 80 percent of the businesses assisted through the program were still in operation after three years. CDBG is the glue that holds other Federal programs serving low-income communities together.

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.

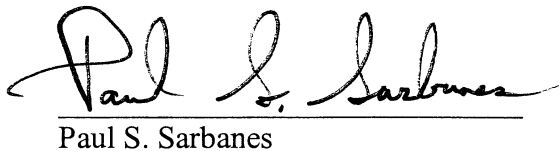
Sincerely,



Patrick J. Leahy



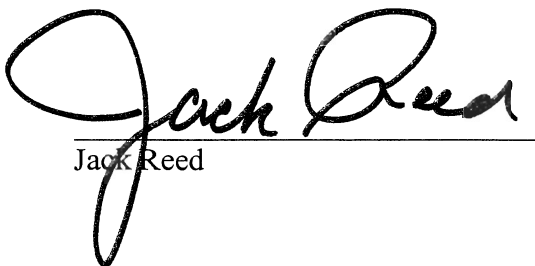
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