Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 25, 2013

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

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

Dear Chairman Latham and Ranking Member Pastor:

We write to share our concern about the impact the proposed funding levels for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program in House Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Subcommittee-passed bill would have on redevelopment authorities and local municipalities. While we understand the difficult fiscal decisions we must make in Washington, the proposed bill reduces CDBG formula grants by nearly 50 percent, from $3.071 billion in FY2013 to $1.637 billion in FY2014. This proposed funding level also marks an historic low since the program's beginnings in the 1970s.

As you know, 144 Members signed a bipartisan letter in April for your review in developing FY2014 legislation. The letter supported maintaining the funding levels that the subcommittee recommended last year. The now proposed, substantial reduction -- essentially halving the program -- would impact local economies, threaten the program's national scope, curtail on-the-ground lead-abatement projects helping to revitalize our older cities, and reduce ongoing capabilities to aid veterans and other workforce training services.

We are concerned about the implications of this reduction, especially as the program's funds have already fallen substantially—by nearly $1 billion since FY2010. As you know, CDBG is largely managed by local municipalities, providing flexibility and tailored needs in our local economies and remains a lifeline for families and communities. For example, HUD reports that between FY2007 and FY2011, CDBG helped over 174,000 businesses expand economic opportunities and over the last decade, CDBG programs have rehabilitated more than 1.4 million homes for low- and moderate-income homeowners and renters. As a proven program with an effective track record, it serves an ongoing, continual need that not only impacts lives, but provides a documented return on its investment to leverage local dollars: Every $1.00 of CDBG leverages an additional $3.55 in non-CDBG funding, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The pressing need in the current economy for these funds remains critical. We look forward to working with you to maintain effective funding levels for this work. If we can provide any further information, please contact Kate Ostrander, Legislative Director of the Northeast-

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Midwest Congressional Coalition, at 6-6106 or kate.ostrander@mail.house.gov. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Mike Kelly
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Mike Turner
Member of Congress

Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress

Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress

Chris Gibson
Member of Congress

Lou Barletta
Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress

Peter T. King
Member of Congress

Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress

David B. McKinley
Member of Congress

Jim Gerlach
Member of Congress

Stevan Pearce
Member of Congress

Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress

Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress

John D. Dingell
Member of Congress

Peter Welch
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress

Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress

John K. Delaney
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress

Mark Takano
Member of Congress

Matthew A. Cartwright
Member of Congress

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress

Mike Doyle
Member of Congress

Colleen W. Hanabusa
Member of Congress

Ann M. Kuster
Member of Congress

Nick J. Rahall, II
Member of Congress

William R. Keating
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress

Jim Matheson
Member of Congress

Rubén Hinojosa
Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

Albio Sires
Member of Congress

Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress

Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress

John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress

Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress

Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

Paul Tonko
Member of Congress

Louise McIntosh Slaughter
Member of Congress

Gene Green
Member of Congress

James A. Himes
Member of Congress

Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress

Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress

Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress

Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress

Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress

Steven A. Horsford
Member of Congress

Ron Kind
Member of Congress

Judy Chu
Member of Congress

David Loebsack
Member of Congress

Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress

Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress

Gloria Negrete McLeod
Member of Congress

Michael H. Michaud
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

Corrine Brown
Member of Congress

Lois Capps
Member of Congress

John F. Tierney
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

Tammy Duckworth
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress

John A. Yarmuth
Member of Congress

Janice Hahn
Member of Congress

Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

Pete P. Gallego
Member of Congress

Filemon Vela
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

Theodore E. Deutch
Member of Congress

Timothy J. Walz
Member of Congress

Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress

Jim Costa
Member of Congress

Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress

Joe Garcia
Member of Congress

Donna M. Christensen
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

Jared Polis
Member of Congress

Xavier Becerra
Member of Congress

Patrick Murphy
Member of Congress

Maxine Waters
Member of Congress