



National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials

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Dear Member of Congress:

I am writing to convey the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials' (NAHRO's) strong support for the \$4 billion in neighborhood stabilization funding that is an important part of the housing relief package currently under consideration in the United States Senate. NAHRO urges you to ensure that this critically important legislation continues to include emergency Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to support state and local efforts to stabilize at-risk neighborhoods through the purchase, rehabilitation, and resale of vacant and foreclosed-upon properties.

A 501(c)(3) membership association, NAHRO represents over 3,200 housing authorities, community development departments, and redevelopment agencies, as well as over 19,000 individual professionals working in the housing and community development industry. NAHRO's extensive and diverse membership allows us to serve as the leading housing and community development advocate for the provision of adequate and affordable housing and strong, viable communities for all Americans - particularly those with low- and moderate-incomes.

In communities across the country, growing numbers of foreclosed and vacant homes are contributing to crime and arson hazards while dragging down surrounding home values. Because existing community development programs are already stretched thin, new resources are needed to arrest and reverse the downward cycle of property abandonment, declining property values, shrinking tax bases and deteriorating neighborhoods. NAHRO believes that the CDBG program is the right vehicle through which to deliver these needed resources. It is a proven, effective program, and existing CDBG grantees already have staff in place that know the program's statutory and regulatory requirements, thus allowing for an efficient, expeditious deployment of funding.

Neighborhood stabilization funding would put neighborhoods back on track while providing a needed economic stimulus. To that end, we are proud to stand with the many other national organizations representing elected officials, community development practitioners, and nonprofits that have expressed their support for Title III of the Dodd-Shelby substitute to H.R. 3221.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Saul N. Ramirez, Jr.
Executive Director

President, **Renée Rooker**, SPHM; **Akinola Popoola**, PHM, Senior Vice President; **Richard Herrington, Jr.**, PHM, Vice President-Professional Development; **Bill Pluta**, Vice President-Community Revitalization & Development; **Gail Monahan**, Vice President-Member Services; **Dianne Hovdestad**, Vice President-Housing; **Carl S. Richie, Jr.**, Vice President-Commissioners; **Jane C.W. Vincent**, Vice President-International; **Saul N. Ramirez, Jr.**, Executive Director