March 12, 2012

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Norman Dicks
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Inouye, Ranking Member Cochran, Chair Rogers, and Ranking Member Dicks:

The 178 national organizations representing local leaders in transportation, affordable housing and community development nonprofit and for-profit organizations, in faith-based and civil rights organizations, and in private enterprises in every state and territory, as well as state and local officials in municipal, tribal and state governments, urge you to increase federal investment in our hometowns’ transportation, affordable housing, community development, and job creation efforts so the federal government can live up to its obligations as a partner in our nation’s ongoing economic growth and recovery. Specifically, we urge you to increase the 302(b) allocation to the Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) to the highest possible level in fiscal year (FY) 2013.

Although each 302(b) allocation funds valuable programs, the THUD allocation uniquely impacts the well-being of our communities by providing essential seed capital and program funding that allows public and private partners to create much-needed jobs, build transportation infrastructure, provide affordable housing for low- and moderate-income families, and deliver necessary services for lasting community and family economic success.

It is our view that Congress’s difficult task of achieving long-term economic recovery requires funding programs with high rates of social and economic return, including those in the THUD bill. The THUD allocation was cut deeply in FY 2012 and is expected to result in lost jobs and halted development projects amongst other detrimental impacts. Merely sustaining the FY 2012 THUD 302(b) allocation level would generate little overall savings for the federal government and would have harmful consequences at the local level.

Moreover, we oppose further overburdening the THUD allocation by legislation that would shift costs that are currently on the mandatory side of the budget to the discretionary side. We also urge the Committee to continue to direct revenues generated within the Department of Transportation and revenues generated within the Department of Housing and Urban Development to programs administered by those departments.

Each undersigned organization recognizes that to build the kinds of stable communities that families of all income levels can call home, no single aspect of the THUD budget can be ignored. As members of the Appropriations Committees, and more importantly as elected representatives of your hometowns, we urge you to take a stand for investing in the success of America’s communities by increasing the 302(b) allocation to the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee to the highest possible level in FY 2013.

Sincerely,

ACCSES
Affordable Housing Investors Council
Affordable Housing Tax Credit Coalition
AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust
Alliance for Biking and Walking
Alliance for Retired Americans
Amalgamated Transit Union
America 2050
America Bikes
American Institute of Architects
American Planning Association
American Public Transportation Association
American Society of Landscape Architects
Amtrak
Association of Jewish Family & Children’s Agencies
Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations
BlueGreen Alliance
B’nai B’rith International
Building Opportunities for Self Sufficiency
Casa de Esperanza
Catholic Charities USA
Center for Community Change
Center for Neighborhood Technology
CLEARCorps USA
Coalition for Justice
Coalition on Human Needs
Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning
Community Action Partnership
Consortium for Citizens With Disabilities Housing Task Force
Corporation for Enterprise Development
Corporation for Supportive Housing
Council For Opportunity in Education
Council of Large Public Housing Authorities
Council of State Community Development Agencies
Covenant House
Disciples Justice Action Network
Easter Seals
Elderly Housing Development & Operations Corporation
Enterprise Community Investment
Enterprise Community Partners
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Feast of Justice
Franciscan Action Network
Franciscan Sisters
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Futures Without Violence (formerly Family Violence Prevention Fund)
Gray Panthers
Habitat for Humanity International
Housing Assistance Council
Housing Partnership Network
Institute for Responsible Housing Preservation
Institute for Transportation & Development Policy
Institute of Real Estate Management
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
Islamic Relief USA
Islamic Society of North America
JC & Associate
Jesuit Conference
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Jonathan Rose Companies
Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Just Economics, LLC
Lead and Environmental Hazards Association
LeadingAge (formerly AAHSA)
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
LOCUS: Responsible Real Estate Developers and Investors
Low Income Investment Fund
Lutheran Services in America
Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office
Mental Health America
Mercy Housing, Inc.
Mortgage Bankers Association
NAACP
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Affordable Housing Management Association
National AIDS Housing Coalition
National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations
National Alliance of HUD Tenants
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Alliance to End Homelessness
National American Indian Housing Council
National Association for County Community and Economic Development
National Association of Affordable Housing Lenders
National Association of Area Agencies on Aging
National Association of City Transportation Officials
National Association of Counties
National Association of Development Organizations
National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials
National Association of Housing Cooperatives
National Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies
National Association of Railroad Passengers
National Association of Regional Councils
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of State and Local Equity Funds
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors
National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities
The Community Builders, Inc.
The Every Child Matters Education Fund
The Jewish Federations of North America
The John Leary Organization
The National Association of Development Organizations
The National Center on Family Homelessness
The National Council of Independent Living
The Urban Land Institute
Transit for Livable Communities
Transportation for America
Travelers Aid International
U.S. Soccer Foundation
Union for Reform Judaism
United Spinal Association
United States Conference of Mayors
Urban Land Conservancy
YWCA USA

Public Officials and Housing and Transportation Departments
Chicago Department of Housing and Economic Development
Chicago Transit Authority
City of Boise Department of Housing and Community Development
City of Las Vegas Department of Public Works
City of Portland Bureau of Transportation
City of Portland Housing Bureau
Department of Neighborhood Development, City of Boston
Los Angeles Department of Transportation
Los Angeles Housing Department
Mayor Jonathan Rothschild, Tucson, Arizona
Mayor Paul Soglin, Madison, Wisconsin
Mayor Ralph Becker, Salt Lake City, Utah
New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development
New York City Housing Authority
Pierce Transit, Tacoma, Washington
San Francisco Mayor's Office of Housing
San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency
Seattle Office of Housing

CC: Hon. Harry Reid
    Hon. Mitch McConnell
    Hon. John Boehner
    Hon. Nancy Pelosi
    Hon. Kent Conrad
    Hon. Jeff Sessions
    Hon. Paul Ryan
    Hon. Chris Van Hollen