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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

178 NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND PUBLIC OFFICIALS URGE APPROPRIATORS TO INCREASE INVESTMENT IN TRANSPORTATION, AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Groups warn underfunding these pivotal resources could harm public-private partnerships which aid in job creation

Washington, D.C. (March 14, 2012) – A total of 178 groups representing a broad spectrum of interests are calling on Congress to increase funding for transportation, affordable housing, community development, and job creation efforts. This unprecedented showing of support for these interests is intended to underscore the importance of the federal government’s ongoing commitment to support critical housing and transportation needs at the local level.

The National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) along with 177 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 sent a letter to the Committee on Appropriations. This committee is charged with writing the legislation that allocates annual federal funds to the Department of Transportation and the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

This is much more than a numbers game,” said NAHRO’s Chief Executive Officer, Saul Ramirez, Jr. “Housing and transportation programs are essential to build and sustain quality communities for every American – the grandparent down the block, the construction worker across the street, your child’s teacher – and it is critical that appropriators do all they can to fully fund these programs as they are fundamental to our nation’s prosperity.”

Achieving long-term economic recovery requires funding programs with high rates of social and economic return, including those in the THUD bill. Unfortunately, the THUD allocation has been reduced over the period of the last several years and was in fact cut deeply in FY 2012. This has already resulted in lost jobs and halted development projects. In order to build the kinds of communities that families of all income levels can call home, no single aspect of the THUD budget can be ignored. These programs support critical infrastructure improvements that create jobs and improve local commerce. As our nations’ fiscal well being continues to improve, housing and transportation funding should continue to be seen as economic engines which can have a positive catalytic impact on the road to stronger economy.
The full text of the letter can be found [here](#).

The National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, established in 1933, is a membership organization of 23,000 housing and community development agencies and professionals throughout the United States whose mission is to create affordable housing and safe, viable communities that enhance the quality of life for all Americans, especially those of low- and moderate-income. NAHRO’s membership administers more than 3 million housing units for 7.6 million people.

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