

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 8, 2013

Honorable Patty Murray  
Chairwoman  
THUD Subcommittee  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Senate Dirksen Building, 142  
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Susan Collins  
Ranking Member  
THUD Subcommittee  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Senate Dirksen Building, 142  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Murray and Ranking Member Collins:

I write to express my support for passage of an appropriation bill for the agencies within the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2013 after the current continuing resolution expires on March 27, 2013. As you know, because continuing resolutions are temporary measures carrying over previous year funding without new start, transfer and reprogramming authority, they create significant uncertainty and disruption in federal agencies' ability to execute taxpayer dollars in the best interest of the nation.

Additionally, uncertainty associated with temporary continuing resolutions prevents strategic, long-term planning and budgeting. Passing annual appropriations bills are necessary to ensure Congress exercises its Constitutional responsibilities to appropriately allocate taxpayer funds and provide federal agencies with the ability to create smart, effective budgets extending into future fiscal years.

As you work on providing funding for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2013 for programs in your subcommittee jurisdiction, I respectfully request support for the programs listed below. The funding requested for the national programs is to be spent at the agencies' discretion within the existing budget line and is not intended for any specific business, state, community or other entity.

## 1. **Title:** Native American Housing Block Grants

**Program Description:** The Native American Housing Block Grants are the single largest source of Federal funding for housing development, housing-related infrastructure, and home repair and maintenance in Indian Country.

**Rationale:** The President's Budget Request of \$650,000,000 will not meet all tribal housing needs. Additional funding will keep pace with the increased cost of housing construction, energy costs, and other inflationary factors.

Chairwoman Murray and Ranking Member Collins

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**Fiscal Year 2013 President's Budget Request:** \$650 million

**Additional Amount Requested:** +\$50 million

**Budget Account:** Native American Housing Block Grants

**Recipient:** Department of Housing and Urban Development

2. **Title:** Community Development Fund

**Program Description:** This funding allows the Department to award block grants to units of general local government and States for community development programs to promote physical, social and economic well-being of communities.

**Rationale:** Additional funding will provide States and eligible communities adequate resources to develop communities through infrastructure improvements, housing rehabilitation and construction, job creation and retention and public services.

**Fiscal Year 2013 President's Budget Request:** \$3.143 billion

**Additional Amount Requested:** +\$66.9M million

**Budget Account:** Community Development Fund

**Recipient:** Department of Housing and Urban Development

Thank your consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact my staff member, Lindsay Kavanaugh, at (202) 224-3004 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Mark Begich  
United States Senator