

May 3, 2013

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

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

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

Dear Chair Mikulski, Ranking Member Shelby, Chair Rogers, and Ranking Member Lowey:

The organizations signed below - a list that includes (2,000- insert final number) national, state, and local business, transportation, housing and community development, faith-based and civil rights organizations, as well as state and local officials in municipal, tribal and state governments - 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) 2014.

The THUD allocation uniquely promotes the well-being of our home communities by providing essential seed capital and program funding that enables public and private partners to build critical transportation infrastructure, spur economic development in communities, and help more than 5 million seniors, people with disabilities, and other families to afford stable housing. Through these investments, Congress supports small-business job creation, expands our nation's infrastructure capacity, supports economic recovery and growth, reduces homelessness and housing hardships, and promotes lasting community and family economic success.

In these tight times, the THUD bill's investments yield high rates of social and economic return, and an adequate THUD allocation should be a high priority. Yet these investments have been cut sharply in recent years. Even before sequestration, the FY 2013 302(b) allocation (\$51.8 billion in budget authority) was *24 percent less* than the FY 2010 enacted level (\$67.9 billion). Because of these cuts, more than 140,000 road, bridge, and transit projects have been put in jeopardy at the cost of hundreds of thousands of jobs; federal support for the production and preservation of affordable housing has been slashed, which is likely to result in more than 100,000 low-income families losing rental assistance and recent progress in reducing chronic homelessness being reversed.

To support an increased THUD 302(b) allocation, we urge the Committees to continue the practice of directing 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 economically vibrant, healthy, and 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 2014.

Sincerely,