March 31, 2014

The Honorable Tom Latham
Chairman
Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee
2358-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ed Pastor
Ranking Member
Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Latham and Ranking Member Pastor:

As you begin work on the fiscal year (FY) 2015 appropriations process, we respectfully request your consideration of the needs of the millions of low-income households across the United States without access to affordable housing.

Specifically, we ask the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) restore HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funding to at least its FY 2011 funding level of $1.6 billion for FY 2015.

HOME funds serve as a critical resource for communities in all 50 states working to meet the needs of low-income families and individuals lacking access to affordable housing, including veterans, persons with disabilities, seniors and those experiencing homelessness. Overseen by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the HOME program allows states and localities the freedom and the flexibility to respond to their most pressing housing needs in the way they see fit. HOME funds can be used in a variety of ways by participating jurisdictions (PJs), from rehabilitating owner-occupied housing, to assisting home buyers and developing affordable rental housing, as well as providing tenant-based rental assistance.

For FY 2014, HOME was funded at $1 billion — a level 38 percent below the FY 2011 enacted level, and a level representing less than half the amount provided for the program in FY 2004. Restoring HOME funding to $1.6 billion must be a part of any effort to address the growing need for affordable housing considering the country is at a time when the Center for Housing Policy reports over one-in-four working renter households spent more than half their income on housing costs and nearly one in five working homeowners experienced a severe housing cost burden.

The HOME Program has the remarkable ability to attract other monies to its affordable housing projects, leveraging $4.12 of private and public dollars for every $1 of HOME funding expended.
over the past twenty years. HOME is also a potent job creator, and HUD estimated in 2012 that an appropriation of $1 billion for HOME would create or preserve approximately 17,870 jobs.

HOME provides housing assistance in over 580 rural, suburban, and urban communities across the country, in addition to all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Since 1990, HOME has helped to create over 1.1 million housing units and provided tenant-based rental assistance to nearly 275,000 families.

The housing industry has and will continue to play a major role in our economic recovery. We urge you to restore HOME program funding to $1.6 billion in order to help improve our economy and ensure every American has access to affordable housing.

Sincerely,

Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress

[Signatures of other members of Congress]
John Lewis
Member of Congress

Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress

Steve Israel
Member of Congress

Mary Bono
Member of Congress

Jim McGovern
Member of Congress

Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress

Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

Z. B. McPeak
Member of Congress
Elliot Engel
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress

John Conyers
Member of Congress

Keith Ellison
Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell
Member of Congress

C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress

Drew V. Furguson
Member of Congress

Katharine W. Clark
Member of Congress

Gerald N. Hefley
Member of Congress

John F. Tierney
Member of Congress

Laird Cagges
Member of Congress

Bren Lenarme
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Rosa L. DeLarrio
Member of Congress

Linda J. Sanchez
Member of Congress

Madeline J. Bordallo
Member of Congress
Louise M. Slaughter  
Member of Congress

Joe Morelle  
Member of Congress

Adele Smith  
Member of Congress

Butler  
Member of Congress

Carolyn McCarthy  
Member of Congress

Alex L. Hastings  
Member of Congress

Chris Smith  
Member of Congress

Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress

Danny Davis  
Member of Congress

Chu Aftt  
Member of Congress

Charles B. Rangel  
Member of Congress

Betty P. Clarke  
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

Danny T. Edwards  
Member of Congress