

June 23, 2010

Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U. S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Sen. Thad Cochran, Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U. S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Sen. Herb Kohl, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Agriculture  
Committee on Appropriations  
U. S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Sen. Sam Brownback, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Agriculture  
Committee on Appropriations  
U. S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Rep. David Obey, Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Jerry Lewis, Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Rosa DeLauro, Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Agriculture  
Committee on Appropriations  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Jack Kingston, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Agriculture  
Committee on Appropriations  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators and Representatives:

The undersigned organizations and individuals are very concerned about a portion of the US Department of Agriculture's proposed rural housing budget for FY 2011. Specifically we hope that the Congress can continue to fund -- at least at the 2010 level -- USDA's Multifamily Preservation and Revitalization (MPR) program and the Preservation Revolving Loan Fund (PRLF). Both are not in the President's request. Those very small but innovative programs are vital to the preservation of USDA's rural rental housing stock, which serves a largely elderly and disabled population with an average household income of less than \$11,000.

We are very encouraged that the President's budget includes funding for the USDA Section 515 rural rental program. But the MPR and PRLF programs, supplementing Section 515 and totaling only \$27 million in FY 2010, are also key components of an overall approach to housing the poorest and most vulnerable people. Congress created both of these programs in the FY 2006 appropriations bill for USDA and has funded them every year since.

These are also very successful programs. From 2006 through 2009 USDA financed a total of \$100 million in multi-family restructurings. This funding allowed the Department to provide assistance to preserve and renovate existing section 515 developments and vouchers for families who might be displaced in the event of prepayment. Requests for restructuring regularly total over \$2 billion per year. Since the beginning of the demonstration, USDA has financed some 300 transactions that will help preserve the homes of close to 10,000 tenants.

We work with a wide network of local nonprofits that use USDA, HUD and other programs to build and preserve affordable housing. Overall we feel the 2011 budget has strong proposals for affordable housing. But to preserve the homes of some of the lowest-income rural Americans, we would urge you to keep the MPR and PRLF programs as well.

Sincerely,

Adams & Brown Counties Economic Opportunities, Inc., Georgetown, Ohio  
American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, Washington, DC  
Big Cypress Housing Corporation, Immokalee, Florida  
Cabrillo Economic Development Corp., Ventura, California  
California Coalition for Rural Housing, Sacramento, California  
California Housing Partnership, San Francisco, California  
CASA of Oregon, Newberg, Oregon  
Champlain Housing Trust, Burlington, Vermont  
City of Casa Grande, Casa Grande, Arizona  
CDC of Brownsville, Brownsville, Texas  
Coachella Valley Housing Coalition, Indio, California  
Coalition for Economic Survival, Los Angeles, California  
Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio, Columbus, Ohio  
Community Action Partnership of Northwest Montana, Kalispell, MT  
Community Economic Development Assistance Corporation, Boston, Massachusetts  
Community Frameworks, Spokane, Washington  
Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP), Chico, California  
Community Housing Initiatives, Inc., Spencer, Iowa  
Council for Affordable and Rural Housing, Alexandria, Virginia  
Will Cooper, Sr., Irvine, California  
Delta Housing Development Corporation, Indianola, Mississippi  
Devine & Gong, Inc., San Francisco, California  
Enterprise Community Partners, Santa Fe, New Mexico  
Everglades Housing Trust, Homestead, Florida  
Federation of Appalachian Housing Enterprises, Berea, Kentucky  
Raymond P. Finney, Realtor, Pagosa Springs, Colorado  
Florida Home Partnership, Ruskin, Florida  
Florida Non-Profit Housing, Inc., Sebring, Florida  
Highland Community Builders, Inc., Elkins, West Virginia  
Homes In Partnership, Apopka, Florida  
Housing Assistance Council, Washington, DC  
Housing Development Corp. Midatlantic, Lancaster, Pennsylvania  
Housing Preservation Project, St. Paul, Minnesota  
Laconia Area Community Land Trust, Laconia, New Hampshire  
Little Dixie Community Action Agency, Hugo, Oklahoma  
Little Manatee Housing Corporation, Ruskin, Florida  
Local Initiatives Support Corporation, New York, New York  
Mercy Housing, West Sacramento, California  
Midwest Minnesota CDC, Detroit Lakes, Minnesota  
Minnesota Housing Partnership, St. Paul, Minnesota  
Mississippi Action for Community Education, Greenville, Mississippi  
Moloka'i Community Service Council, Kaunakakai, Hawai'i  
Motivation Education & Training, Inc., New Caney, Texas  
National Affordable Housing Trust, Columbus, Ohio  
National Council of State Housing Agencies, Washington, DC  
National Housing Conference, Washington, DC  
National Housing Law Project, Oakland, California  
National Housing Trust, Washington, DC  
National Low Income Housing Coalition, Washington, DC

NCALL, Dover, Delaware  
Network for Oregon Affordable Housing, Portland, Oregon  
New York State Rural Advocates, Blue Mt. Lake, New York  
Northeast South Dakota Community Action Program (NESDCAP), Sisseton, South Dakota  
Northern Initiatives, Marquette, Michigan  
Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing, Columbus, Ohio  
Oregon Opportunity Network, Portland, Oregon  
Pathfinder Services, Huntington, Indiana  
PathStone, Rochester, New York  
People's Self-Help Housing Corporation, San Luis Obispo, California  
Public Counsel, Los Angeles, California  
Rural Community Assistance Corporation, West Sacramento, California  
Rural Housing Development Corporation, Provo, Utah  
Rural Neighborhoods, Inc., Florida City, Florida  
Self Help Enterprises, Visalia, California  
Self-Help Housing Corporation of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii  
South East Alabama Self-Help Association, Inc., Tuskegee, Alabama  
Southern Mutual Help Association, Inc., New Iberia, Louisiana  
Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership, Slayton, Minnesota  
Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future, Washington, DC  
Stop Abusive Family Environments (SAFE), Welch, West Virginia  
Tamaqua Area Community Partnership, Tamaqua, Pennsylvania  
Tierra del Sol Housing Corporation, Anthony, New Mexico  
Universal Housing Development Corporation, Russellville, Arkansas  
Umpqua CDC, Roseburg, Oregon  
Washington State Housing Finance Commission, Seattle, Washington