

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Majority Leader Harry Reid
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Minority Leader Mitch McConnell
361A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Speaker John Boehner
1011 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi
235 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

March 15, 2011

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Boehner, Minority Leader Pelosi:

As you finalize a Continuing Resolution for FY 2011, we write to urge your opposition to language in H.R. 1 that would eliminate a successful community development program at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and would undermine the economic development plans created in dozens of communities.

Section 2226 of H.R. 1 would end the Sustainable Communities Initiative and halt an effective and efficient partnership between HUD, DOT, and EPA that minimizes red tape, coordinates investments to meet multiple economic, environmental and community objectives, and ensures that the three agencies are working in tandem to support local communities. These improvements not only save money, they also improve government efficiency and ensure a productive partnership between the federal government and local communities. As we reduce federal funding, we must avoid shortsighted choices and preserve those investments that increase government effectiveness while aiding the economic development of struggling communities.

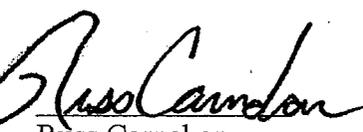
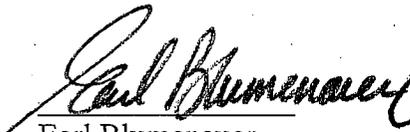
The Sustainable Communities Initiative has used its competitive grant program to help communities to create a vision for sustainable growth and economic development that integrates their transportation, housing, land use and energy planning. These regional development plans generate jobs, lower housing and transportation costs, and use limited public funds more wisely.

The Sustainable Communities Initiative has awarded numerous grants to communities to realize these visions, but the interest in this grant program has far exceeded the available

funding. In 2010, a total of 630 communities requested \$1.2 billion in funding. HUD was able to award 61 grants worth \$68 million. Ending this initiative will deprive communities who weren't funded in this round from the opportunity to receive funding in the future. In addition, section 2232 of H.R. 1 rescinds unobligated funds for the Sustainable Communities Initiative. This would also result in many of the successful projects losing their funding, for while the grants have been awarded, many of the final contracts have not yet been signed.

These cuts will end a program whose purpose is to make the federal government more efficient and a better partner to local communities as they try to create jobs and improve their local economies. We hope you will reject these shortsighted measures.

Sincerely,



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

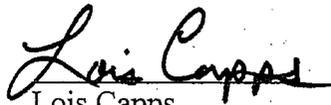
Russ Carnahan
Member of Congress



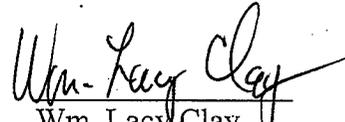
David Wu
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



Lois Capps
Member of Congress



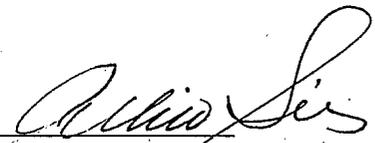
Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



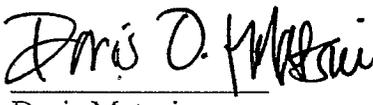
Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress



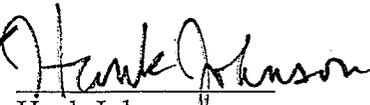
Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Gerald Connolly
Member of Congress



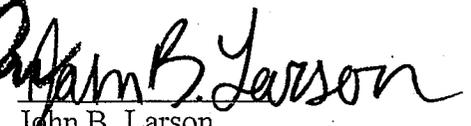
Hank Johnson
Member of Congress



James Moran
Member of Congress



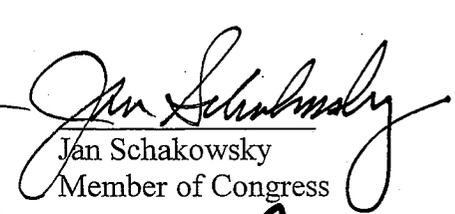
Jesse Jackson
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
Member of Congress

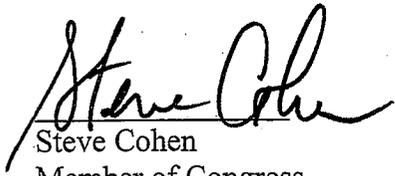


Ron Kind
Member of Congress

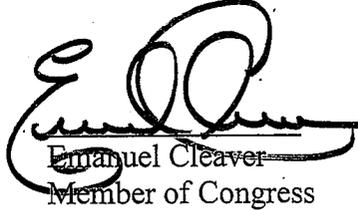


Richard Neal
Member of Congress

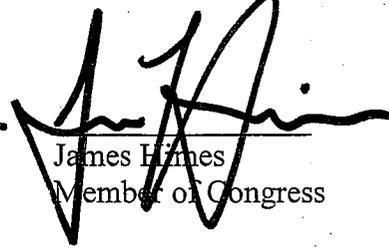
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



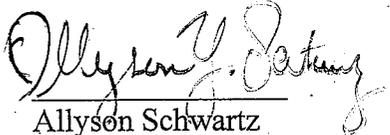
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress



James Himes
Member of Congress



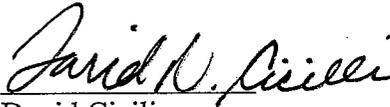
Allyson Schwartz
Member of Congress



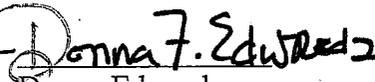
Cedric Richmond
Member of Congress



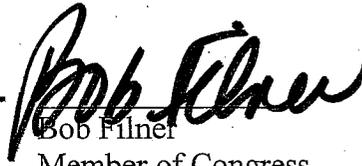
Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



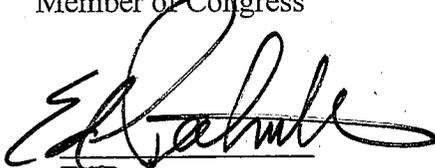
David Cicilline
Member of Congress



Donna Edwards
Member of Congress



Bob Filner
Member of Congress



Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress