

August 1, 2012

The Honorable John Boehner
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chair, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norm Dicks
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Spencer Bachus
Chair, Committee on Financial Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Barney Frank
Ranking Member, Committee on Financial Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Lucas
Chair, Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Collin Peterson
Ranking Member, Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Boehner, Minority Leader Pelosi, Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Dicks, Chairman Bachus, Ranking Member Frank, Chairman Lucas, and Ranking Member Peterson:

Unless Congress acts, more than 900 rural communities across the nation will lose eligibility for funding under critical Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Housing programs on October 1, 2012. At that time, the law requires that USDA reclassify communities as “rural” with data from the 2010 Census. As a result, 923 communities currently eligible for USDA Rural Housing programs will be excluded. While these communities are, by any measure, rural, most will lose eligibility because they are located within Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). With half of all rural residents living in MSAs, this will have a significant impact on local rural economies.

For these reasons, we strongly urge you to enact legislation before the Senate adjourns this fall to ensure that these communities remain eligible for these critical USDA Rural Housing programs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

National Association of Home Builders
National Association of REALTORS®
National Rural Housing Coalition
Mortgage Bankers Association