

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 10, 2012

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Pelosi:

We are writing to urge you to include a provision addressing a rural housing problem in any upcoming legislation the House considers prior to September 30, 2012. We have enclosed proposed language that could be used in the upcoming continuing resolution (CR) as well as future omnibus appropriations packages, which would resolve this issue for the next fiscal year and thus enable us to develop a long-term approach.

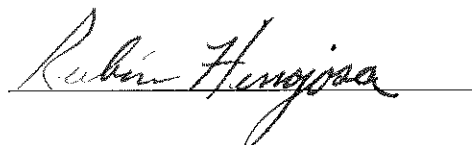
This important issue affects hundreds of rural communities throughout the United States. Unless action is taken by September 30, 2012, 923 communities will no longer be eligible for funding under critical U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development programs.

In 2000, Congress enacted a grandfather clause that allowed any community that was "rural" in 1990 to continue to be eligible for USDA Rural Development funding until the 2010 Census, as long as it had a population below 25,000. This grandfather clause will expire on October 1, 2012, and under the new definition, 923 communities currently eligible for USDA Rural Development programs will be cut off from what is often their only source of federal housing funding. To be eligible after October 1, 2012, these communities must fall within the original—and very restrictive—definition.

We continue to work with many of our colleagues to extend the current grandfather clause. During its consideration of the Farm Bill, the Senate passed by voice vote an amendment to continue the grandfather clause for ten years for those communities eligible for USDA rural housing programs. The provision also increased the population cap on communities previously eligible to 35,000. Due to jurisdictional issues, we were unable to consider such a provision during the House Agriculture Committee markup of the bill, but hope to address the issue during conference. In addition, we continue to promote H.R. 273, the *Rural Housing Preservation Act*. This measure, which has 16 bipartisan cosponsors, would preserve the definition of "rural" under current law until 2020 Census data is available.

Thank you for your attention this matter.

Sincerely,



Kathleen C. Hochup

Emce Balay

Arthur W. Murchie

John R.

Bill Cassidy

Donna L. Lumb

Rita B. Nager

Rail M. Hijab

Jill Song

John C. Canary

C.W. Boustany Jr.

Edward C.

Phil C. Ford

Jim H.

D. Camacho

Rush Holt

Fant Nester

A. Meyerhoff

Leann B. Berman

Elai Ludwig

Putlache

Jay McTig

Tim Griffin

J. By

Sam Lan

Bever Lewis

Darin Mena

Mazie K. Hirono

Tim Ryan

Chell R

Tim Johnson

Jim Langewen

Reck Lasser

Gynthia M. Lummis

Paul V. Aron

John H. L.

Kathy Costa

+

Mike Thompson

Jim Saccomandi

Joe Courtney

Rail M. Hijabro

Lois Coppe

Samuel A. Mangullo

Ra Young

Elmer Gully

James W. Costello

John M. H.

Bernie P. Thompson

Shelley Moore Capito

Bob Fil

Mike Smith

Joe Breen

John F. Tierney

Jim McFem

Bill Owens

William P. Keating

Rodney Alexander

Gregg Harper

Tim J

Joe Heck

Walter B. Jones

Bernie P. Thompson

Todd R. Platts

Steve Seace

Carlson

Frank A. LoBiondo

Aeneas G. Ellmers

Ben Chandler

Mary and Mack

Sam R. Tipton

Wally Harger

Bill Johnson

T. Z.

Leonard Lane

Paul A. Gosar

Tom Barlitta

Bill Shuster

Billings

Mike McIntyre

Eugene Brannin

Midway

Hayden

Robt

Robert E. And

Charles F. Bass

Howard Noble

Ch. F.

Ben. E.

Vicky Hartley

Kurt Schwab

Wm. J. Way

Rosa L. DeLauro

Al. Way

Brett Gathwaite

~~Art R~~

Elly J. White

Lucy Kinell

Proposed Rural Housing Definition Legislative Language

Rep. Jeff Fortenberry

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any area eligible for rural housing programs of the Rural Housing Service on June 30, 2012, shall remain eligible for such programs until September 30, 2013.

Fortenberry
Hinojosa
Filner
Boustany
LoBiondo
Capito
Tim Ryan
Costa
Michaud
Boren
Gosar
Cassidy
Manzullo
Bennie Thompson
Grijalva
Canseco
Capps
McIntyre
Castor
Guinta
Luetkemeyer
Reyes
McGovern
Keating
Cicilline
Pingree
Matheson
Holt
Courtney
Larsen
Don Young
Carney
Hochul
DeFazio
Mike Ross
Mike Thompson
Crawford
Garamendi
Amodei
Hirono
Baca
Shuster
Platts
McNerney
Griffith
Heck

Long
Walden
Cleaver
Nunes
Denham
Coble
Johnson (Ohio)
Costello
Lummis
Boswell
Loebsack
Harper
Gallegly
Schilling
Welch
Walter Jones
Griffin
Nugent
Tim Johnson
Hanabusa
Langevin
Runyan
Engel
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Owens
Jeff Miller
Tim Bishop
Lance
Farr
Stivers
Tierney
Kissell
Walz
Bonamici
Pearce
Chris Smith
Guthrie
Cuellar
Hartler
Barletta
Herger
Tipton
Kinzinger
Schrader
DeLauro
Chandler

Brad Miller
Ellmers
Andrews
Bass
Bono Mack
Terry