



NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION of
REALTORS®

Gary Thomas
2013 President

Dale A. Stinton
Chief Executive Officer

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DIVISION

Jerry Giovaniello, Senior Vice President
Gary Weaver, Vice President
Scott Reiter, Vice President
Joe Ventrone, Vice President
Jamie Gregory, Deputy Chief Lobbyist

500 New Jersey Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20001-2020
Ph. 202-383-1194 Fax 202-3837580
www.REALTOR.org

September 10, 2013

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman, House Appropriations Committee
2406 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee
2365 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Lowey:

The one million members of the National Association of REALTORS® urge you to protect rural communities in the FY 2014 Continuing Resolution and any FY 2014 Omnibus Appropriations bill.

As you know, there is language in both the FY 2014 House and Senate Agriculture Appropriations bills extending the definition of rural housing used by the Rural Housing Service (RHS). RHS programs such as the Section 502, 515, and 538 loan programs provide direct and guaranteed loans for both single and multifamily housing. Across rural America, these programs provide both rental and homeownership housing opportunities for rural families. As our economic and housing recovery continues, access to these programs is crucial. Since its inception the Section 502 direct loan program alone has helped more than 2.1 rural families purchase a home. Without extending the definition, this program will be unavailable to more than 900 communities nationwide.

It appears unlikely that the FY 2014 Appropriations bills will become law before the September 30th expiration of the current definition. We urge you to include language addressing this issue in the FY 2014 Continuing Resolution so that rural Americans will continue to have access to housing opportunities and financing appropriate to their needs.

Sincerely,

Gary Thomas
2013 President, National Association of REALTORS®

cc: The Honorable Robert Aderholt, Chairman, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture; the Honorable Sam Farr, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture



REALTOR® is a registered collective membership mark which may be used only by real estate professionals who are members of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® and subscribe to its strict Code of Ethics.