

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman John Olver
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and
Urban Development
Committee on Appropriations
2358-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Tom Latham
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and
Urban Development
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

March 22, 2010

Dear Chairman Olver and Ranking Member Latham:

We are writing to express our support for Indian housing programs and request that the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill for fiscal year 2011 contains sufficient funding to meet the needs of Native families.

As you may be aware, housing conditions and the availability of housing in Indian Country fall far below those of the general U.S. population. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, nearly 12 percent of Native American households lack plumbing compared to 1.2 percent of the general U.S. population, and Indian households are nearly three times more likely to be severely overcrowded.

We have made important progress in recent years in bringing high-quality, affordable housing to Indian communities, but that work is far from complete. In particular, two programs for Native housing help alleviate these disparities:

- **The Indian Housing Block Grant:** The President's 2011 budget request seeks \$580 million for this program, which provides the bulk of the federal funding for Indian housing. This amount is a 17% cut from the level enacted for 2010 and is the lowest single-year funding amount for the IHBG since the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act became law in 1996. We request that the IHBG program be funded at \$875 million. This increase will help the program keep pace with the increased cost of housing construction, energy costs, and other inflationary factors.
- **The Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG):** The ICDBG funds essential infrastructure for Indian communities, including sewer and running water. While we appreciate the President's request of \$65 million, rising costs have hampered the development of infrastructure in Indian Country. Accordingly, we request that this program be funded at \$100 million.

As you well know, access to affordable housing forms the foundation of any healthy community. We understand well the tight fiscal circumstances our country is in; however, we

cannot abandon our responsibility to tribal communities. We appreciate your past support for these vital programs and look forward to working with you to continue promoting the development of high-quality, affordable housing in Indian Country.

Sincerely,



Martin Heinrich
Member of Congress



Harry Teague
Member of Congress



Ben Ray Luján
Member of Congress



Joe Baca
Member of Congress



Shelley Berkley
Member of Congress



Dan Boren
Member of Congress



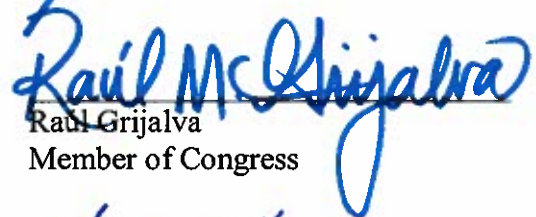
Corrine Brown
Member of Congress



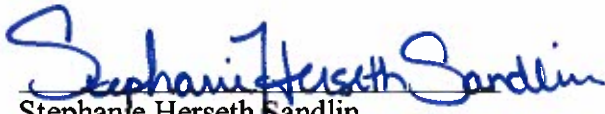
Donna Christensen
Member of Congress



Bob Filner
Member of Congress



Raul Grijalva
Member of Congress



Stephanie Herseth Sandlin
Member of Congress



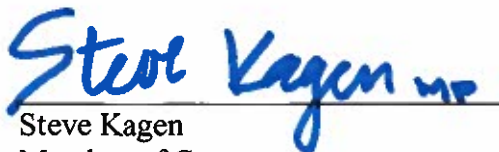
Rubén Hinojosa
Member of Congress



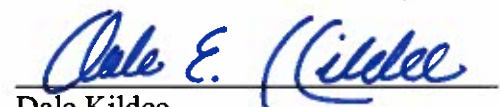
Mazie Hirono
Member of Congress



Jay Inslee
Member of Congress



Steve Kagen
Member of Congress



Dale Kildee
Member of Congress



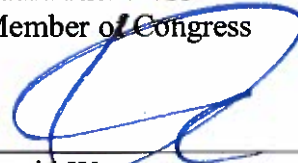
Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



Laura Richardson
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



David Wu
Member of Congress



Don Young
Member of Congress