

July 29, 2010

The Honorable John Olver
Chairman, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and
Urban Development, and Related Agencies
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
2358-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Latham
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and
Urban Development, and Related Agencies
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
2217 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Olver and Ranking Member Latham:

We, the undersigned U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)-approved housing counseling intermediaries, would like to thank you and the other members of your subcommittee for providing \$113 million in funding for the National Foreclosure Mitigation Counseling Program (NFMC) and \$88 million in funding for the HUD Housing Counseling Assistance Program during this year's appropriations process. We recognize that the demand for federal resources is great, and at a time when many programs are being cut, we commend your leadership in championing funding for these programs, which are of vital importance to many of our nation's struggling homeowners.

Our organizations provide a lifeline to millions of families fighting to keep their homes and in many instances are the only places to which families can turn to navigate a complicated situation. The ever-increasing demand for counseling services has required us to do more with less, yet each of our organizations remains committed to running the most efficient operation in order to serve as many homeowners as possible. Our counselors are dedicated to helping homeowners navigate the complex, months-long process necessary to put them on the path to sustained homeownership. At the same time, we have thousands of new homeowners reach out to us each day. These increased demands, coupled with our limited resources, make it challenging to serve all the homeowners in need. The additional funding provided by Congress will allow us to leverage private funding and serve even more homeowners.

Once again, thank you for supporting housing counseling and providing funding that allows us to serve homeowners across the country during this unprecedented housing crisis. On behalf of our dedicated housing counselors and the millions of homeowners we serve each year, we appreciate your recognition of the value of counseling and hope that the final version of the Transportation-HUD appropriations bill will include the funds necessary to allow us to continue to help homeowners.

Sincerely,

HomeFree-USA

Homeownership Preservation Foundation

Housing Partnership Network

Mission of Peace National Corporation

Mon Valley Initiative

National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development

National Community Reinvestment Coalition

National Council of La Raza

National NeighborWorks Association

National Urban League

NID-Housing Counseling Agency