

# Agenda Item 2A: Federal Advocacy Letters

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Second District, Chair

**DOREEN FARR**

Third District

**PETER ADAM**

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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

September 8, 2015

The Honorable Susan Collins, Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban  
Development and Related Agencies  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
SD-142 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Collins:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara in support of FY 2016 funding for the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program at least at the \$900 million that was provided last year.

The HOME program is the only Federal block grant program left at the state and local level designed to create and preserve affordable housing that meets the specific population needs of cities and counties. In Santa Barbara County, the HOME Program, along with the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, also provide additional public services, capital improvements, and new affordable housing, helping to reduce homelessness and prevent additional persons and families from becoming homeless.

The Senate Appropriations Committee's version of the *FY 2016 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act* would reduce HOME program funding by 93 percent from \$900 million to \$66 million. This year, California received \$120 million in HOME funds, 48 percent less than was received in 2011. The proposed FY 2016 cut would mean the entire nation would have access to only half of what California received this year.

In addition to HOME, the County supports the highest level of funding for the following housing and community development programs in the *FY 2016 THUD* bill:

- The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program - This program is vital to the County to provide increased opportunities to plan, implement, and evaluate local community development and housing assistance programs,
- McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Homeless programs – especially the Continuum of Care and Emergency Solutions Grant programs,
- Housing for People with AIDS (HOPWA); and,
- Elderly Housing.

Please work with your colleagues on the Committee to ensure that housing and community development programs critical to State and local governments are funded at the highest possible level in the conference agreement for the *FY 2016 THUD* bill.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters  
Washington Representative

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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

September 8, 2015

The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
United States Senate  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 2051

Dear Senator Boxer:

Enclosed for your information are letters I have sent to Senate Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Subcommittee Chair Collins and Ranking Minority Member Reed in support of FY 2016 funding for the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program at least at the \$900 million that was provided last year.

Thank you for your support for the HOME Program and other housing and community development programs that are critical to State and local governments. The Senate Appropriations Committee's version of the *FY 2016 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act* would reduce HOME program funding by 93 percent from \$900 million to \$66 million. This year, California received \$120 million in HOME funds, 48 percent less than was received in 2011. The proposed FY 2016 cut would mean the entire nation would have access to only half of what California received this year.

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- Elderly Housing.

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Enclosures

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters  
Washington Representative

TPW: awg

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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

September 8, 2015

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

Enclosed for your information are letters I have sent to Senate Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Subcommittee Chair Collins and Ranking Minority Member Reed in support of FY 2016 funding for the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program at least at the \$900 million that was provided last year.

Thank you for your support for the HOME Program and other housing and community development programs that are critical to State and local governments. The Senate Appropriations Committee's version of the *FY 2016 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act* would reduce HOME program funding by 93 percent from \$900 million to \$66 million. This year, California received \$120 million in HOME funds, 48 percent less than was received in 2011. The proposed FY 2016 cut would mean the entire nation would have access to only half of what California received this year.

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Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters  
Washington Representative

TPW: awg

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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

September 8, 2015

The Honorable Lois Capps  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2231 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Lois:

Enclosed for your information are letters I have sent to House Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Diaz-Balart and Ranking Minority Member Price in support of FY 2016 funding for the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program at least at the \$900 million that was provided last year.

Thank you for your support for the HOME Program and other housing and community development programs that are critical to State and local governments. The Senate Appropriations Committee's version of the *FY 2016 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act* would reduce HOME program funding by 93 percent from \$900 million to \$66 million. This year, California received \$120 million in HOME funds, 48 percent less than was received in 2011. The proposed FY 2016 cut would mean the entire nation would have access to only half of what California received this year.

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Thomas P. Walters  
Washington Representative

TPW: awg

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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

September 8, 2015

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban  
Development and Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2358-A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Diaz-Balart:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara in support of FY 2016 funding for the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program at least at the \$900 million that was provided last year.

The HOME program is the only Federal block grant program left at the state and local level designed to create and preserve affordable housing that meets the specific population needs of cities and counties. In Santa Barbara County, the HOME Program, along with the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, also provide additional public services, capital improvements, and new affordable housing, helping to reduce homelessness and prevent additional persons and families from becoming homeless.

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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

September 8, 2015

The Honorable David Price  
Ranking Minority Member  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban  
Development and Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Price:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara in support of FY 2016 funding for the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program at least at the \$900 million that was provided last year.

The HOME program is the only Federal block grant program left at the state and local level designed to create and preserve affordable housing that meets the specific population needs of cities and counties. In Santa Barbara County, the HOME Program, along with the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, also provide additional public services, capital improvements, and new affordable housing, helping to reduce homelessness and prevent additional persons and families from becoming homeless.

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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

September 8, 2015

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban  
Development and Related Agencies  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
SH-125 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Reed:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara in support of FY 2016 funding for the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program at least at the \$900 million that was provided last year.

The HOME program is the only Federal block grant program left at the state and local level designed to create and preserve affordable housing that meets the specific population needs of cities and counties. In Santa Barbara County, the HOME Program, along with the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, also provide additional public services, capital improvements, and new affordable housing, helping to reduce homelessness and prevent additional persons and families from becoming homeless.

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