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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

May 1, 2017

The Honorable Salud Carbajal
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Carbajal:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to express their support for housing and community development programs in the *FY 2018 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations* bill.

Enclosed please find letters I have sent to THUD Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Diaz-Balart and Ranking Minority Member Price (for Senate: Chair Collins and Ranking Minority Member Reed) urging that housing and community development programs critical to State and local governments are funded at the highest possible level in the *FY 2018 THUD* bill.

For FY 2018, the Administration has proposed elimination of the HOME program and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The proposed elimination of the CDBG program would reduce, and in some cases eliminate, the provision of vital community services and improvements to infrastructure. The elimination of the HOME program would cut off the last designated funding for affordable housing development for Santa Barbara County residents. In FY 2016, the county received \$1.08 million through the Community Development Block Grant program and \$730,862 under the HOME program.

Thank you for your efforts to oppose these funding reductions. Please continue to work with your colleagues on the Subcommittee to ensure that housing and community development programs critical to State and local governments are funded at the highest possible level in the *FY 2018 THUD* bill.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:dwg

Enclosures