

Agenda Item 2A: Federal Advocacy Letters

SALUD CARBAJAL

First District

JANET WOLF

Second District, Chair

DOREEN FARR

Third District

PETER ADAM

Fourth District, Vice Chair

STEVE LAVAGNINO

Fifth District



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

County Administration Building

105 East Anapamu Street

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Telephone: (805) 568-2190

www.countyofsb.org

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

March 21, 2016

The Honorable Robert Aderholt, Chairman
Subcommittee on Agriculture
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to express its support for the highest level of funding possible for the following programs of critical importance to the County in the *FY 2017 Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations* bill:

Pest Detection and Prevention, Specialty Crops, and other programs

The Section 10201 program provides funding to State and local agencies to prevent the introduction or spread of plant pests and diseases. With a total annual crop value of \$1.9 billion and protecting the County's more than 40 different crops from destructive pests and diseases is crucial. Section 10201 enables the County Agricultural Commissioner to respond quickly to prevent the spread of these harmful pests and diseases.

Other programs of importance to the County include the Specialty Crop Block Grant program, the Specialty Crop Research program, and the Food Safety & Inspection Service, as well as USDA's Rural Development programs.

Women, Infants, & Children

The County's Public Health Department operates the Women, Infants & Children (WIC) nutrition program and currently serves over 24,000 clients at nine locations. A high level of funding for WIC will allow Santa Barbara County to continue serve families that need assistance.

As your subcommittee begins its consideration of the *FY 2017 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations* bill, please support the highest level of funding possible for these programs.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:awg

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

March 21, 2016

The Honorable Sam Farr
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug
Administration, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Farr:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to express its support for the highest level of funding possible for the following programs of critical importance to the County in the *FY 2017 Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations* bill:

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Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

March 21, 2016

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug
Administration, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
SD-184 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Merkley:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to express its support for the highest level of funding possible for the following programs of critical importance to the County in the *FY 2017 Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations* bill:

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Washington Representative

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

March 21, 2016

The Honorable Jerry Moran, Chairman
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug
Administration, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
SD-190 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to express its support for the highest level of funding possible for the following programs of critical importance to the County in the *FY 2017 Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations* bill:

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

March 21, 2016

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Allard:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to urge you to provide adequate funding for local homeland security, bioterrorism, and disaster preparedness efforts when you draft the *FY 2017 Homeland Security Appropriations* bill.

In California, local governments such as the County are the first responders to terrorist attacks, natural disasters, and other major emergencies. County public health, law enforcement, fire, emergency medical, and other public safety personnel are responsible for on-the-ground response and recovery action. Elected County officials and County emergency managers proved the essential regional planning and coordination in preventing, preparing for, and managing the response to emergency events.

It is important that the Federal government contribute significant resources to local governments so that they can prevent or respond to terrorist attacks and other major emergencies. As your Subcommittee drafts the FY 2017 Department of Homeland Security spending measure, the County urges you to fund the State and Local Homeland Security Grant program at the highest level possible. It is equally important that local governments are prepared for natural disasters, and that adequate funding is provided for the comprehensive emergency management under the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) program. Finally, the County strongly supports continued funding for assistance to local fire departments under the Firefighter Assistance Grants program.

I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:awg

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

March 21, 2016

The Honorable John Hoeven, Chairman
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
SD-131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to urge you to provide adequate funding for local homeland security, bioterrorism, and disaster preparedness efforts when you draft the *FY 2017 Homeland Security Appropriations* bill.

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Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

March 21, 2016

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
SH-125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Shaheen:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to urge you to provide adequate funding for local homeland security, bioterrorism, and disaster preparedness efforts when you draft the *FY 2017 Homeland Security Appropriations* bill.

In California, local governments such as the County are the first responders to terrorist attacks, natural disasters, and other major emergencies. County public health, law enforcement, fire, emergency medical, and other public safety personnel are responsible for on-the-ground response and recovery action. Elected County officials and County emergency managers proved the essential regional planning and coordination in preventing, preparing for, and managing the response to emergency events.

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I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

March 24, 2016

The Honorable Susan Collins, Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Transportation, HUD, 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 Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to express their support for the highest level of funding for housing and community development programs in the *FY 2017 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations* bill.

The County urges the highest level of funding possible for the following housing and community development programs:

- The Community Development Block Grant program
- The HOME Investment Partnerships Act Program
- McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance
- Elderly Housing
- Housing for People With AIDS
- Administration of the National Housing Trust Fund

In particular, the County is concerned about attempts last year to substantially reduce HOME funding. 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.

For FY 2017, the Administration has proposed to fund the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program at \$2.8 billion – a \$200 million reduction from FY 2016. This program is vital to the County to provide increased opportunities to plan, implement, and evaluate local community development and housing assistance programs, and the County urges your support of the highest possible level of funding for CDBG program this year.

Please 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 2017 THUD* bill.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

SALUD CARBAJAL

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

March 24, 2016

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to express their support for the highest level of funding for housing and community development programs in the *FY 2017 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations* bill.

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Please 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 2017 THUD* bill.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

March 24, 2016

The Honorable David Price
Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, HUD, 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 Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to express their support for the highest level of funding for housing and community development programs in the *FY 2017 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations* bill.

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Please 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 2017 THUD* bill.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

March 24, 2016

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, HUD, 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 Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to express their support for the highest level of funding for housing and community development programs in the *FY 2017 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations* bill.

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Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

March 25, 2016

The Honorable Lois Capps
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Lois:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara to express its concern with H.R. 4724, the *Reducing Duplicative and Ineffective Federal Funding Act, which would repeal the Title XX Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)*.

The State of California receives approximately \$190 million from SSBG annually, which it combines with TANF monies to provide funding for a variety of social services programs. Title XX funds are in turn allocated to the County of Santa Barbara for several programs of extreme importance to its citizens, including child welfare and adult services. The County continuously strives to deliver on its promise to provide the very best social services to its residents, and elimination of SSBG funding would greatly impede that effort.

The Committee on Ways and Means marked up and approved H.R 4724 on March 16, on a vote of 20-16, and it is currently pending the report to accompany the committee's action. Please oppose this or any similar legislation that would eliminate the Social Services Block Grant as a funding stream for local social services programs. I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:awg