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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

September 23, 2019

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara to reiterate support for housing and community development programs in the final *FY 2020 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations* bill.

As the House and Senate negotiate a final version of this legislation, the County requests the highest level of funding possible for the following programs:

- The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program
- The HOME Investment Partnerships Act Program
- McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance
- Elderly Housing
- Housing for People With AIDS

Thank you for opposing the Administration's proposed elimination of HOME and CDBG. The County's funding from these programs has already dropped 43 percent since 2010. Continued reductions negatively impact the community through the lack of resources to address County needs in the areas of capital infrastructure, public service, microeconomic development and affordable housing. The availability of housing and community services supports stronger communities, improved outcomes in schools, and work-ready community residents. For every \$1 in CDBG and HOME funded expended, the community leverages over \$4 from other sources.

Please continue to work with your colleagues on the Committee to support the highest possible level of funding for housing and community development programs in FY 2020.

Sincerely yours,

Don Gilchrest
Washington Representative

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