

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 1, 2011

Rep. Norm Dicks, Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Sam Farr, Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture
1126 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Dicks and Representative Farr:

We write to indicate our support for the rural housing provisions in HR 1, Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011. In particular we support provisions related to section 502 direct loans and self help housing.

As you know, HR 1 wisely continues most rural housing programs at the FY10 rate. For low income families living in rural communities section 502 direct loans are the only federal assistance available for home ownership. If the FY10 rate of \$1.12 billion is approved, more than 10,000 rural households will receive home mortgage loans on affordable terms and conditions. It is important to note that despite assisting families with very limited means, 60% of households assisted in FY 10 had incomes that did not exceed 60% of median, the total cost per unit in section 502 is the lowest of all federal programs: \$4500.

HR 1 also provides \$37 million for mutual and self help housing grants. Under this program low income families work nights and weekends, contributing 65% of the labor necessary to build their own homes. Over the last three fiscal years, self help housing organizations have constructed some 3500 units of housing. This housing has a major impact on the economy. Based on estimates from the National Association of Home Builders the 3500 self help homes constructed in rural America account for over 11,000 jobs and over \$738 million in local income and \$77 million in taxes and revenue.

While we have many concerns about HR 1 and believe any continuing resolution must be substantially altered before being approved, the rural housing provisions are worthy of support and we urge you to strongly consider doing so.

Sincerely,



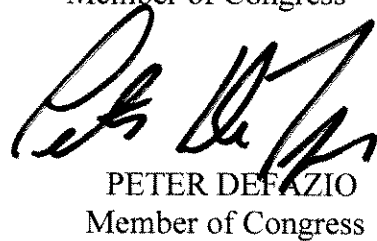
JIM COSTA
Member of Congress



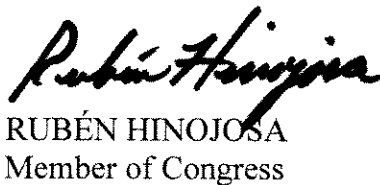
DENNIS CARDOZA
Member of Congress



BOB FILNER
Member of Congress



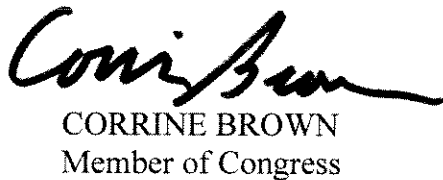
PETER DEFAZIO
Member of Congress



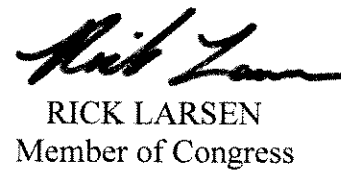
RUBÉN HINOJOSA
Member of Congress



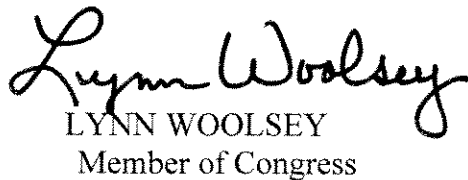
DAN BOREN
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CORRINE BROWN
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KATHY CASTOR
Member of Congress