

NRHC Budget Bulletin

Volume 13, Number 30

February 18, 2010

Signing on For Rural Housing

Attached is a letter sponsored by Congressman Ruben Hinojosa in support of rural housing appropriations for FY 2011. Rep. Hinojosa is circulating the letter for signature by other Members of Congress. The closing date for the letter is March 12.

The letter proposes a substantial increase in rural housing programs – including loans for home ownership and rental housing, grants for home repair, financing for farm labor housing and support for self help housing.

The letter adopts many of NRHC's budget and appropriations recommendations. Please contact your Representative and urge them to sign on to the Hinojosa letter.

A copy of the 2009 House Appropriations letter is attached.

National Rural Housing Coalition

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February 18, 2010

Dear Colleague:

Join me in urging Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro, Chairwoman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, and Ranking Member Jack Kingston to provide funding levels for key USDA rural housing programs that will benefit our rural constituents, rural economies, our districts, and the U.S economy.

I urge you to join this effort by co-signing the accompanying letter requesting the following funding levels for USDA rural housing programs in Fiscal Year 2011:

- \$2.5 billion for Section 502 Single Family Direct Homeownership Loans;
- \$50 million for Section 504 Very Low-Income Rural Housing Repair Loans;
- \$50 million for Section 504 Very Low-Income Rural Housing Repair Grants;
- \$50 million for Section 514 Farm Labor Housing Program Loans;
- \$50 million for Section 516 Farm Labor Housing Program Grants;
- \$250 million for Section 515 Rural Rental Housing Program;
- \$1 billion for Section 521 Multi-Family Rental Assistance Program;
- \$50 million for Section 523 Mutual Self-Help Housing Program;
- \$50 million for Section 533 Housing Preservation Grants Program;
- \$200 million for Section 538 Guaranteed Multi-Family Housing Loans;
- \$20 million for Section 538 interest subsidy;
- \$300 million for the Multi-Family Housing Preservation and Revitalization Program; and,
- \$12 million for the Rural Community Development Initiative.

These important programs provide our rural communities with the vital tools they need to build, purchase, or rent affordable housing. They provide rental assistance, preserve rental housing units for low-income families, and supply funding for home repair for rural America.

They help future homeowners obtain loans for the purchase or repair of new or existing single-family housing in rural areas. They provide funds both for new construction and for the repair and preservation of Section 515 affordable rural rental housing units. The Section 523 Mutual Self-Help Housing Program makes homes affordable for our rural constituents by providing the funding and technical assistance they need to build their own homes using “sweat equity,” thereby enhancing communal vitality.

Rural America needs our help. Our rural constituents need these programs with maximum funding. Together, we can ensure these programs continue to operate at their optimum levels needed in rural America.

To co-sign the letter or obtain additional information or clarification, please contact my staff, Greg Davis, at 226-8010 or Greg.Davis@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Rubén Hinojosa
Chairman
Congressional Rural Housing Caucus