

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 27, 2005

The Honorable Christopher S. Bond, Chairman
The Honorable Patty Murray, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury, the Judiciary,
HUD and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Bond and Ranking Member Murray:

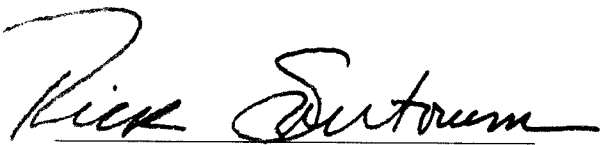
We are contacting you to express our strong support for an appropriation of at least \$80 million for the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund in Fiscal Year 2006. This appropriation will be used to leverage an additional \$1 billion in private sector investment for our nation's emerging domestic markets. This investment is needed to preserve the CDFI's core programs including financial assistance, Native American CDFI Initiatives, technical assistance, and Bank Enterprise Award programs.

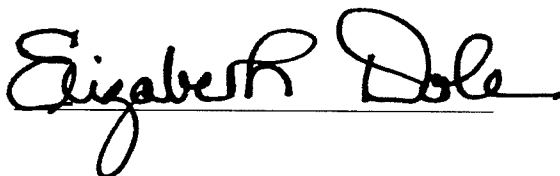
CDFIs are financial institutions that specialize in underserved markets with the goal of bringing those markets into the economic mainstream and bringing the economic mainstream into those markets. In its first 10 years, the CDFI Fund has successfully invested in CDFIs working in urban, rural, and reservation-based markets in all 50 states to produce jobs, quality affordable housing, and facilities for vital social services.

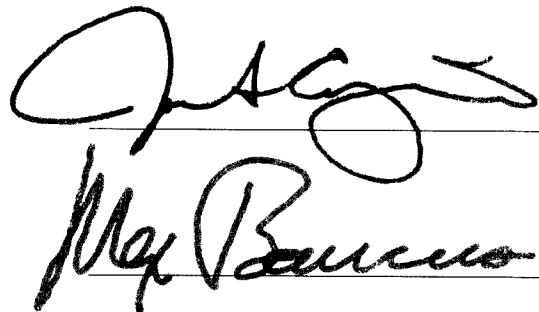
An \$80 million appropriation would restore the CDFI Fund to FY02 levels from an FY05 level of \$55 million. As our nation continues its economic recovery and expansion, we believe it is time to increase our investment in programs that work to make sure that all people have the opportunity to participate fully in economic prosperity. This funding will ensure that the CDFI Fund continues to administer its critically important investment programs, as well as the New Markets Tax Credit. It would ensure that the CDFI Fund would continue to operate successfully in the Department of the Treasury and continue to address the capital demand of CDFIs and the communities they serve.

We urge your support and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,







Joe Biden

Tom F. Kelly

Eric Swalley

Jim Talent

Frank R. Lautenberg

Herb Kohl

Tom Fitzell

Tom Harkin

Barack

Maria Cantwell

Dianne

Sam Brown

Carl Levin

Chris Dodd

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Nom. Colman

Pat V. Doherty

Jay Byrnes

Jack Reed

Ken Salazar

J. Biden

Allen S. Specter

Patrick Leahy

Paul S. Surban

Lebbie Stebenew

Barbara Payer

Charles Schure

Bland L. Linde

Mike Cryer

Bill Nelson

Frank Lott

Jirone Christen

Robert A. Neuhoff

Dyanna Suman

Robert

John Johnson

David H. Hala

Rick Leger

Mark Boyer

Dick Durbin

Jim Gibbs

Ed Smith

Paul Kennedy

Ron Wynn

Mary L. Gorman

Mark Dayton

George Allen