



General Assembly
State of Colorado
Denver

February 3, 2014

The Honorable Shaun Donovan
Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 Seventh Street S.W. Room 10148
Washington, D.C. 20410

Dear Secretary Donovan:

We, the undersigned members of the Flood Disaster Study Committee of the Colorado General Assembly, write to request the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) make a second allocation of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds in 2014 for Colorado to help finance urgently needed flood recovery projects in our state.

The Flood Disaster Study Committee is a 12-member, bi-partisan committee that was created to review existing state policies and resources addressing flood disasters; consider new policies to respond to the September 2013 flood; and address future flood responses, prevention, and mitigation across the state.

We would like to express our gratitude and appreciation for the efforts of HUD in supporting our communities as we work to recover from the floods that struck Colorado this past September. As you know, HUD recently allocated \$62.8 million in CDBG-DR funds to finance ongoing flood recovery work in Colorado. State officials are working to implement a plan to use these dollars to help Colorado families, businesses, and municipalities rebuild flooded homes and damaged infrastructure.

We also want to highlight the substantial unmet needs our state continues to face in the wake of the historic September 2013 floods. Coloradans continue to face significant challenges in rebuilding and recovery efforts. As you saw during your recent visit, the scale of the damage is overwhelming. The Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Small Business Administration, the Federal Highway Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and other federal agencies are all providing substantial assistance to help Colorado homeowners, businesses, and local government repair the damage. These resources, however, cannot completely meet the needs our residents face.

The state's initial assessment of housing damage, farm and business damage, and public infrastructure damage all far exceed, by hundreds of millions of dollars, the total amount federal agencies have identified as eligible for reimbursement under existing federal funding streams. Months after the floodwaters receded, state and local recovery officials continue to grapple with a long list of incomplete projects to repair ditches, dams, and stream gages, or rechanneled waterways across the Colorado Front Range. In many cases, no federal funding is currently

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available to support these projects. Cumulatively, Colorado still faces an enormous short fall in total flood recovery resources. This shortage underscores the need for additional CDBG-DR funding.

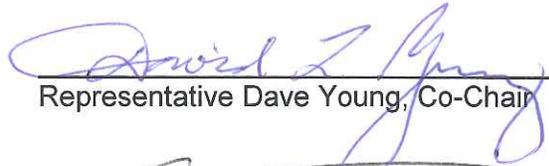
We understand HUD currently has over \$3 billion unallocated CDBG-DR funds. Given Colorado's ongoing challenges, it is our committee's hope and request that HUD allocate additional CDBG-DR funds to Colorado this year.

Thank you again for your support and your consideration.

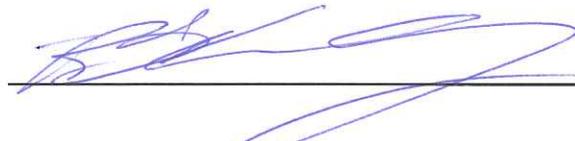
Sincerely,



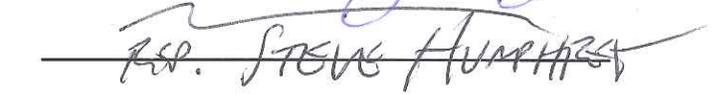
Senator Scott Renfro, Co-Chair



Representative Dave Young, Co-Chair



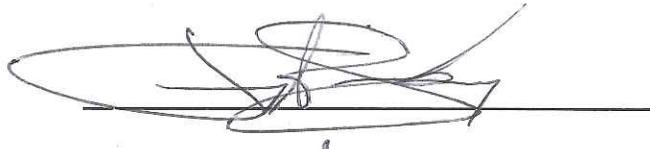
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Rep. Steve Humphrey



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Jeanne Nicholson



Jonathan Singer