*DRAFT LETTER to accompany a Senator’s FY’15 appropriations request for the CDFI Fund*

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| The Honorable Tom Udall  Chairman  Appropriations Subcommittee on  Financial Services and General Government  United States Senate  Washington, DC 20510 | The Honorable Mike Johanns  Ranking Member  Appropriations Subcommittee on  Financial Services and General Government  United States Senate  Washington, DC 20510 |

Dear Chairman Udall and Ranking Member Johanns:

I write to respectfully ask that you and your colleagues provide at least $226 million for the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund in the fiscal year 2015 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bill.

The Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (The Fund) was established within the U.S. Department of Treasury in 1994[[1]](#footnote-1) to promote community development in economically distressed urban and rural areas by investing in mission-driven financial institutions, known as community development financial institutions (CDFIs). CDFI Fund administers a range of innovative programs designed to strengthen the ability of CDFIs to provide financial products and services in underserved communities.

There are now over 800 certified CDFIs working in low-wealth communities across the country providing the flexible, market-driven products and services that consumers and small business owners need to grow and thrive. I can attest the critical work that CDFIs do in my home state

CDFIs are able to serve communities and market sectors that traditional financial institutions cannot and it’s important to note that the ultimate goal of a CDFI is to transition their customers into the mainstream economy as bank customers, home owners and/or entrepreneurs.

Since 1994, the CDFI Fund has awarded more than $1.9 billion on a competitive basis to CDFIs and these federal dollars have effectively been leveraged, loaned and invested in urban and rural communities across the country where they are creating jobs and strengthening local economies. Last year, CDFIs made over 24,285 loans or investments totaling over $1.9 billion and financed more than 8,173 small businesses, over 17,732 housing units, and created more than 35,097 jobs.

In the fiscal year 2015 Appropriation bill, I ask that you maintain funding for the CDFI Fund at $226 million which is the fiscal year 2014 enacted level. I appreciate you considering this programmatic funding request.

Sincerely,

Senatore ---------

1. The CDFI Fund was authorized as part of the *Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act (PL 103-325)*. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)