*Draft email for your outreach to your Senator’s office. You may paste it into the body of your email. Please be sure to personalize the highlighted areas before sending.*

Dear [NAME of Hill Staffer],

I’m writing to ask Senator [Name] to sign onto a letter being circulated by Senator Robert Menendez in support of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 CDFI Fund appropriations (see below). Our request to the Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee is $248 million for the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI Fund), which is the same funding level included in the FY17 Omnibus.

As you may know, the CDFI Fund was established within the U.S. Department of Treasury in 1994 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).

[You may insert 2-3 sentences here on your work as a CDFI in the state]

There are now 1,049, including 74 Native CDFIs, working in low-wealth communities and low income populations across the country. In FY 2016 alone, CDFIs made over 39,000 loans or investments totaling over $3.6 billion and financed more than 11,000 small businesses.

The deadline for signatures is Friday, May 19th. Please contact Keith Roachford at Keith\_Roachford@menendez.senate.gov to sign onto the letter. I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have on the CDFI Fund programs or our work in the state.

Sincerely,

[Your Name and Contact Information]

May , 2017

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito The Honorable Chris Coons Chairman Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Financial Services Subcommittee on Financial Services

& General Government & General Government

Senate Appropriations Committee Senate Appropriations Committee

The Capitol, S-131 The Capitol, S-131

Washington, D.C. 20510 Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Capito and Ranking Member Coons:

We write to request that the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 provide $248 million for the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund. This is the same funding level as FY 2017.

The Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI Fund) was established within the U.S. Department of Treasury in 1994 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). By leveraging over $12 in private capital to every $1 in federal support, CDFIs are filling the yawning credit gap encountered in many communities, creating jobs improving housing and community facilities and creating economic opportunity.

There are now 1,049, including 74 Native CDFIs, working in low-wealth communities and low income populations across the country. This includes 545 loan funds, 294 credit unions, 199 depository institution holding companies, banks or thrifts, and 11 venture capital funds--all providing the flexible, patient capital and financial services that consumers, small businesses and communities need to grow and thrive. CDFIs serve urban and rural communities and reach market sectors that traditional financial institutions cannot and the ultimate goal of a CDFI is to transition their customers into the mainstream economy as bank customers, home owners and/or entrepreneurs.

CDFIs use these competitively awarded federal dollars to leverage, loan and invest in urban and rural communities across the country where they are creating jobs and strengthening local economies. In FY 2016 alone, CDFIs made over 39,000 loans or investments totaling over $3.6 billion and financed more than 11,000 small businesses. The CDFI Fund also administers the New Market Tax Credit Program and the CDFI Bond Guarantee Program, both designed to generate lending and investing to promote community revitalization, business development, and job creation in economically distressed communities.

The CDFI Fund provides resources for a range of innovative and effective programs that enable CDFIs to address the needs of their target markets. CDFI Fund programs include: Financial Assistance (FA) and Technical Assistance (TA) awards to small and emerging CDFIs as well as established CDFIs, the Native American CDFI Assistance (NACA) Program aimed at increasing the number and capacity of CDFIs serving Native communities; Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI) to expand financing for healthy food options in underserved urban and rural communities; the Bank Enterprise Awards (BEA) program providing monetary awards to FDIC-insured banks that invest in low income communities and/or CDFIs and a new small dollar loan program.

We appreciate the important work that CDFIs do in our home states financing new and growing businesses, delivering financial services to distressed urban neighborhoods and remote rural areas, and facilitating the development of strong economically vibrant communities. However, CDFIs need access to capital now more than ever. This is evidenced by the application demand, nearly 4 times the availability of resources.

We strongly urge you to continue supporting the work of CDFIs by including $248 million for the CDFI Fund in the FY 2018 appropriations bill.

Sincerely,