*DRAFT LETTER*

*For Senators submitting a FY’14 appropriations request for the CDFI Fund Program*

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| The Honorable Frank Lautenberg  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 Lautenberg and Ranking Member Johanns:

I write to respectfully ask that you and your colleagues on the Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee provide at least $224.9 million for the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund in the fiscal year 2014 Appropriations bill.

Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) are community-based, mission-driven financial institutions that specialize in delivering affordable credit, capital, and financial services to residents and businesses in minority and economically distressed communities. The CDFI Fund was established within the U.S. Department of Treasury in 1994 to promote community development in economically distressed urban and rural communities by investing in and growing CDFIs across the country.

CDFIs provide the flexible, market-driven products and services that consumers and small business owners need to grow and thrive. CDFIs fill a vital niche in the nation's financial services delivery system by serving communities and market sectors that traditional financial institutions cannot. The ultimate goal of a CDFI is to transition their customers into the mainstream economy as bank customers, home owners and/or entrepreneurs.

To date, the CDFI Fund has certified more than 999 CDFIs to work in low-wealth communities in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Since 1994, the CDFI Fund has awarded more than $1.7 billion on a competitive basis to CDFIs, Native American CDFIs, and financial institutions through the Bank Enterprise Awards Program. In FY 2012, CDFIs made over 17,500 loans or investments totaling over $1.29 billion and financed more than 4,102 small businesses, over 24,466 housing units, and created more than 25,618 jobs.

I ask that you provide at least $224.9 million for the CDFI Fund in fiscal year 2014. This is the funding level requested in the President’s budget and provides a $3.9 million increase over current funding to support the work of CDFI in urban and rural communities across the country.

Sincerely,

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