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May 18, 2011

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
U.S. House of Representatives
326 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: FULL FY 2012 FUNDING FOR CRITICAL FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Dear Congressman McCarthy:

I am writing on behalf of the League of California Cities (League), which represents California's 481 cities, to request that you submit FY 2012 programmatic funding requests to the House Appropriations Committee at the levels described below for the following programs:

Community Development Block Grant Program: \$3.97 Billion

While the national economy is beginning to rebound, economic forecasts indicate that local governments will continue to face severe budget shortfalls through 2012 at an estimated cumulative level of \$56 to \$83 billion, as a result of the national mortgage foreclosure crisis. California cities, home to approximately 30 million of the State's 37 million population, are prepared to immediately utilize funding from a fully-financed CDBG program to advance community and economic development projects that are critical to rebuilding local economies and revitalizing economic activity.

Byrne Justice Assistance Grants Program: \$512 Million

The Byrne/JAG program provides local governments with much-needed support to further a broad range of local public safety activities including law enforcement, prosecution, planning, evaluation, and technology improvement, corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, prevention and education. Full funding is needed for this program to maintain the great number of local law enforcement programs and activities that are currently underway and keeping our communities safe.

Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund: \$2 Billion

The CWSRF is the only federal funding source available to local governments to assist with water and wastewater infrastructure repairs and upgrades. California's water and wastewater systems are in desperate need of overhaul as there has been virtually no new investment in the system that supports the world's eight largest economy in more than 30 years. Full funding for CWSRF is critical to supporting improvements to this infrastructure system.

Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery Program: \$600 Million

The TIGER grant provides competitive funding opportunities for local governments to improve regional mobility and goods movement through coordinated and multi-jurisdictional transportation planning and project execution. The program is the only new federal investment source that has been made available to assist local governments implement critically needed transportation improvement projects in the absence of federal action on the reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU. A recent Federal Highway Administration study that lists pavement conditions in all 50 states has California tied for second-worst ahead of only New Jersey, with just 18 percent of its roadways considered to be in "good" condition. Full funding for the TIGER program is very much needed to repair and improve California's crumbling transportation infrastructure system, reduce congestion to increase goods movement to achieve economic growth and create jobs in California cities.

Sustainable Communities Initiative Programs: \$150 Million

The Sustainable Communities Regional Planning and Community Challenge grant programs support local and regional transportation and land use planning efforts that seek to increase mobility and community access, improve air quality and public health and create jobs. This funding is helping California cities increase efficiencies in local resource use as we work to organize local redevelopment and transportation planning that will maximize benefit to our communities, decrease congestion and improve local goods movement. Full funding for TIGER is badly needed to maintain and improve California's transportation infrastructure system.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We hope you can support full funding in FY 2012 for the programs described in this letter. Please feel free to call me at (916) 658-8240, or our Washington representatives, Eve M. O'Toole and Dustin McDonald at (202) 419-2505 and (202) 419-2511 respectively.

Sincerely,



Christopher McKenzie
Executive Director