

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0301

November 2, 2015

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Senate Committee on Banking, Housing,
and Urban Affairs
534 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing and Urban Development, and
Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
2358-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tim Scott
Chairman
Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation,
and Community Development
534 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Rogers, Diaz-Balart, Shelby, and Scott:

As members of the House of Representatives, we write to voice our support for the inclusion of important language, which would block implementation of the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) rule, to any final Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD), and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2016 bill or omnibus appropriations package. Specifically, we ask that this language mirror that of amendments passed by Rep. Paul Gosar (AZ-04), which were adopted during the FY 2015 and FY2016 THUD bills. This language would prohibit the use of funds to carry out the AFFH rule.

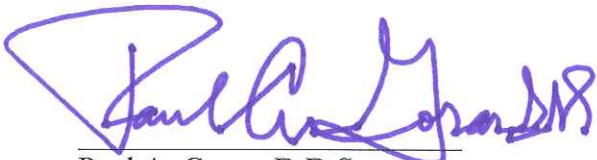
The AFFH rule seeks to use the disparate impact legal theory to justify social engineering of local neighborhoods. It would do so by withholding Community Development Block Grant funds from towns and cities unless they meet utopian standards of integration based on sex, income, religion, race, and other federally protected demographics. HUD is essentially creating a set of rules and regulations to which communities must conform, or face losing out on tens of millions of dollars in grant money annually. Further, the rule will result in increased local taxes, will depress property values, and will cause further harm to impoverished communities that actually need these funds.

This new Washington mandate has nothing to do with race, as housing discrimination has been illegal for more than 40 years. This overreaching new regulation is an attempt to extort communities into giving up control of local zoning decisions and reengineer the makeup of our neighborhoods.

The House of Representatives has already voted twice to defund the AFFH rule during consideration of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development funding bills for fiscal years 2015 and 2016 (please see Roll Call Vote no. 285 from the 113th Congress and Roll Call Vote no. 311 from the 114th Congress).

We appreciate your leadership in moving forward on the FY16 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill and appreciate your consideration of our request as you move toward reconciling the House bill with the Senate version.

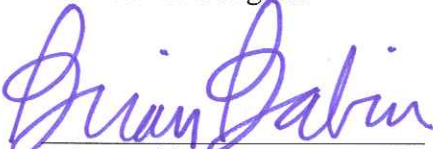
Sincerely,



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



Trent Franks
Member of Congress



Brian Babin, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



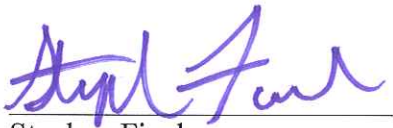
Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress



Steve Chabot
Member of Congress



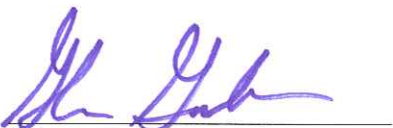
Scott DesJarlais
Member of Congress



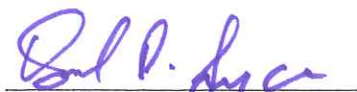
Stephen Fincher
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress




Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress



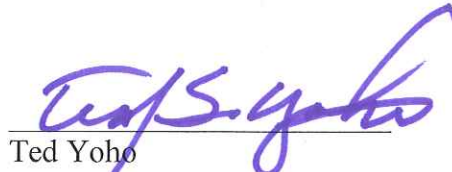
David P. Joyce
Member of Congress


Cynthia Lummis
Member of Congress


Thomas Massie
Member of Congress


Lamar Smith
Member of Congress


Lynn Westmoreland
Member of Congress


Ted Yoho
Member of Congress