

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

March 17, 2016

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

The Honorable David Price
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing
and Urban Development, and Related
Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Diaz-Balart and Ranking Member Price:

As you begin work on the fiscal year (FY) 2017 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) bill, we urge you to prevent any funding from being utilized to carry out the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) rule promulgated by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Assessment Tool that will be utilized to implement this new regulation.

On July 16, 2015 HUD published its final overreaching AFFH rule. The Assessment Tool that will be used to carry out this new mandate was published in the federal register on December 31, 2015 and requires local communities that receive CDBG funds and other important federal housing grants to begin submitting onerous new assessments after October 4, 2016.

The AFFH rule uses the disparate impact legal theory to justify social engineering of local neighborhoods, withholding Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from towns and cities unless they meet utopian standards of integration based on sex, income, religion, race, and other federally protected demographics. HUD has essentially created 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 ultimately result in increased local taxes, depressed property values, and will cause further harm to impoverished communities that actually need these funds.

Accordingly, we ask that you include language similar to the following:

Sec. 2 __. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out the final rule entitled "Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing", published by the Department of Housing and Urban Development in the Federal Register on July 16, 2015 (80 Fed. Reg. 42272; Docket No. FR-5173-F-04) or to carry out the notice entitled "Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Assessment Tool", published by the Department of Housing and Urban Development in the Federal Register on December 31, 2015 (80 Fed. Reg. 81840; Docket No. FR-5173-N-07).

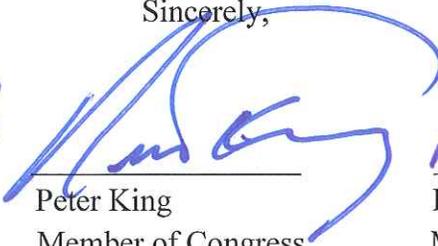
This new Washington regulation has nothing to do with race, as housing discrimination has been illegal for more than 40 years. This overreaching mandate is an attempt to extort communities into giving up control of local zoning decisions and to reengineer the makeup of our neighborhoods. Local zoning decisions have traditionally been, and should always be, made by local communities. American citizens should be free to choose where they would like to live and not be subject to neighborhood engineering and gerrymandering at the behest of an overzealous federal government.

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 thank you for your consideration of this request, and for your leadership on the committee.

Sincerely,



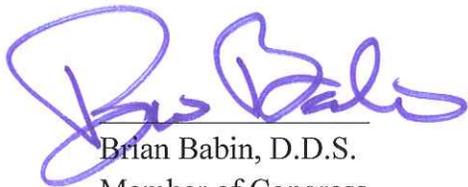
Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



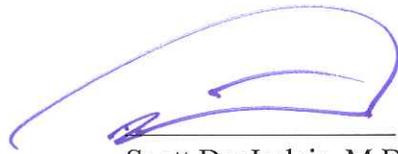
Peter King
Member of Congress



Rod Blum
Member of Congress



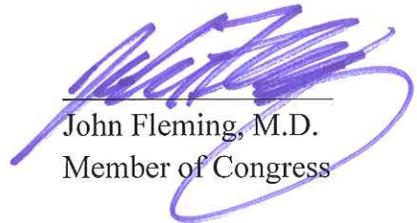
Brian Babin, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



Scott DesJarlais, M.D.
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan
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John Fleming, M.D.
Member of Congress



Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress



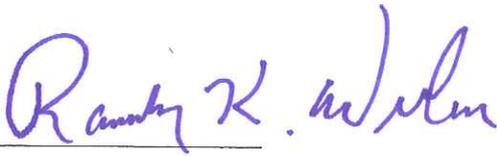
Cynthia Lummis
Member of Congress



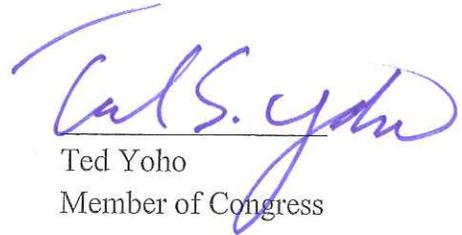
Thomas Massie
Member of Congress



Tom McClintock
Member of Congress



Randy Weber
Member of Congress



Ted Yoho
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