

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 4, 1996

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The Honorable Sheila T. Russell
City of Cambridge
City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

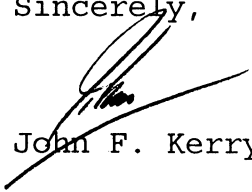
Dear Mayor Russell:

Cambridge City Clerk Margaret Drury has kindly forwarded me a copy of your resolution urging the leadership of the U.S. Congress to continue funding for the CDBG, HOME and ESG programs. I share the sentiment of this resolution: programs that effectively serve low- and moderate-income Americans in our urban centers deserve at least level funding in fiscal year 1997.

Community Development Block Grants, homeless assistance grants -- of which Emergency Shelter Grants are a subset -- and the HOME investment partnership program are some of the most important programs for addressing the economic development and affordable housing needs of our nation's communities. I have communicated my desire to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Departments of Housing and Urban Development and Veterans' Affairs that I support FY97 funding at levels at least equal to the FY96 appropriations. These programs share the important feature of providing local flexibility -- for communities like Cambridge -- within broad federal goals and purposes. The success of these programs merits continued strong federal support for CDBG, ESG and HOME even as other federal programs are being cut back to eliminate the deficit.

I appreciate hearing from you. Rest assured, I will keep fighting for these important programs.

Sincerely,



John F. Kerry

cc: D. Margaret Drury, Cambridge City Clerk

Consent Communication #20

S-357

Communication was received from
Senator John F. Kerry, United States
Senate, transmitting response to
resolution urging the leadership
of the U.S. Congress to continue
funding for the CDBG, HOME and
ESG programs

In City Council June 24, 1996

Placed on file