

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2102

March 31, 1999

The Honorable Francis H. Duehay
Mayor
City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Mayor Duehay:

Knowing how important Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs, sponsored by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, are to cities across the Commonwealth I thought I would bring you up to date on where its funding now stands in the U.S. Senate Appropriations/Budget process.

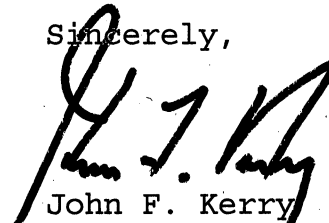
As you probably know, the budget proposed by President Clinton recommends a slight increase in CDBG spending for the next federal fiscal year. However, the Republican leadership has countered that by proposing an 80 percent cut in the CDBG program, to be implemented over the next 10 years.

This week I co-sponsored an amendment that proposed to restore CDBG funds to at least level-funding. However, the amendment failed on a very close vote. I have also sent a letter to the Appropriations Committee to make sure that CDBG levels are properly funded.

The federal budget process is still early yet, and I will continue to fight hard to keep CDBG funding in place. The Republicans intent to cut a proven program that provides communities with resources to help small businesses, first-time home buyers, and a myriad of valuable social service programs, makes no sense. I will do my very best to convince my colleagues that the success of the CDBG program should continue.

If you have any further questions please feel free to contact my office. I hope to see you soon and hope you had a fine holiday.

Sincerely,



John F. Kerry
United States Senator

JFK/mjv

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

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A communication was received from Mayor
Duehay, transmitting a letter from John
F. Kerry, United States Senator, transmitting
an update on the Community Development
Block Grant (CDBG) Programs.

In City Council April 5, 1999

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