

September 26, 1979

Dear Colleague:

When the House considers the Conference Report on H.R. 4389 -- the FY 1980 HUD-Independent Agencies Appropriations Bill -- we urge you to support a small but exciting initiative that will aid community revitalization efforts in rural and urban areas throughout the country.

You can show your support for this new initiative -- the Livable Cities Program -- by voting in favor of a motion to recede and concur with the Senate on Amendment No. 12, reported in disagreement to the House. The amendment would provide \$3 million for the Livable Cities Program for FY 1980. The motion will be made by Representative Louis Stokes.

The Livable Cities Program would weave cultural, historic and artistic efforts into community revitalization projects. These revitalization projects generally consist of a combination of housing rehabilitation, street and park improvements and improved public services. The Livable Cities Program would enhance these physical community improvements with the artistic and cultural expressions of the residents of those communities.

The Livable Cities Program would provide small sums of money to individuals and neighborhood groups to generate cultural, historic and artistic activities. The program would be administered by HUD with the advice and assistance of the National Endowment for the Arts. HUD's role as the lead agency is key. The authorizing legislation requires that grants awarded under the program must be linked to conservation and revitalization efforts and must directly benefit the residents of low and moderate income neighborhoods. No existing community art program meets this goal. And broader community development programs are already overextended.

The Livable Cities Program has been approved by both the Authorizing Committee (Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs) and the Budget Committee. And it has passed the Senate. An amendment to add appropriations for the Livable Cities Program lost on a tie vote in the Appropriations Subcommittee on HUD-Independent Agencies.

Bricks and mortar alone won't rekindle community spirit in our rural and urban communities. But the Livable Cities Program can foster that spirit and help rebuild the soul of our communities.

Sincerely,

Les AuCoin

[Signature]

William Woodward

Jack Bynon

Walter F. [Signature]

Shirley Chisholm

John J. [Signature]

[Signature]

Dwight D. [Signature]

Robert J. [Signature]

Bennett M. [Signature]

Lucy [Signature]

[Signature]

Edward W. [Signature]