



## COUNTY OF DEL NORTE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

981 "H" Street, Suite 200  
Crescent City, California 95531

Phone  
(707) 464-7204

April 11, 2017

Fax  
(707) 464-1165

The Honorable Jared Huffman  
1406 Longworth House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Huffman:

As Congress wraps up the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 appropriations process and begins the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 appropriations process, we would like to express our concern with cuts to certain programs in the Trump Administration's FY 2017 supplemental request and FY 2018 budget. Each of these programs is essential to the County and the cuts would have a detrimental impact on our ability to serve our citizens. Specific areas of concern are outlined below:

- The elimination of Essential Air Service (EAS) funding in FY 2018 would absolutely devastate our community due to the loss of scheduled air service at the Del Norte County Regional Airport. The EAS program is a critical lifeline for us, both from an economic development perspective as well as from a health and safety perspective. Not only would companies be negatively impacted or decide not to locate in Del Norte County or southern Oregon due to the loss of scheduled air service, but if we have a significant storm or other natural disaster that closes Highways 101 and 199 at the same time, the airport provides our only means of evacuation and transportation.
- The proposed reduction of funding for Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) in FY 2017 by \$80 million from the amount currently proposed by both the House and the Senate, as well as continued reductions in FY 2018 would have a detrimental impact to the County. In FY 2016, Del Norte County received just over \$600,000 in PILT payments.
- The elimination of the remainder of funding in FY 2017, and the elimination of the program entirely in FY 2018, for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which is a lifeline in Del Norte County for some of our most impoverished families and seniors in the community, would create a gap in ensuring access to proper heating for all of our citizens.
- The elimination of the Community Services Block Grants (CSBG) in the FY 2018 budget would impact the County's ability to work with those citizens that are highly motivated to reduce their dependence on public benefits. Meanwhile, the proposed FY 2017 cuts would eliminate all of the grants in the fourth quarter of the fiscal year and most of the grants in the third quarter. The County supports keeping funding at least level to the fiscal year 2016 amount of \$715 million.

- The proposal to cut funding in half for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program in FY 2017 and then to proceed to eliminate the program entirely in FY 2018 would prevent the County from addressing essential community development needs and serving the less fortunate in our community. The County requests that the funding level for the program remain at least level with the FY 2016 amount of \$3 billion. In FY 2016, the State of California received an allocation of \$27,834,660 through CDBG, which is then available to the County.
- Elimination of the HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) program would greatly impact the County's ability to connect our citizens with affordable, accessible housing. We support maintaining the current funding level of \$950 million. In FY 2016, the State of California received an allocation of \$30,566,619 through HOME.
- The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is impacted in two ways by the Administration's proposal. The first is a suggestion to restructure the program "to ensure that the cost of Government services is not subsidized by taxpayers who do not directly benefit from those programs". Although there is no additional detail provided, it is essential that flood insurance remain affordable for our citizens.
- The second change to the NFIP is a proposal to eliminate the appropriation for the NFIP's Flood Hazard Mapping Program and potentially pay for these activities by adding another surcharge onto NFIP policies. The affordability and stability of the NFIP is of vital importance to the County.
- The drastic cuts of \$310 million in FY 2017 and \$490 million in FY 2018 in Department of Justice grant programs would impact the County's ability to keep our citizens safe. Programs such as the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Grants and the Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (JAG) allow the County to address public safety needs.

These are just a few of the most important programs to Del Norte County. We look forward to continuing to work with you to best serve the citizens of Del Norte as you conclude the appropriations process for FY 2017 and begin the process for FY 2018. We will also share any additional concerns that may arise from the release of the Administration's full FY 2018 budget in May.

Sincerely,

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Chris Howard, Chair  
Board of Supervisors  
Del Norte County, California



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April 11, 2017

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

As Congress wraps up the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 appropriations process and begins the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 appropriations process, we would like to express our concern with cuts to certain programs in the Trump Administration's FY 2017 supplemental request and FY 2018 budget. Each of these programs is essential to the County and the cuts would have a detrimental impact on our ability to serve our citizens. Specific areas of concern are outlined below:

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Chris Howard, Chair  
Board of Supervisors  
Del Norte County, California



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April 11, 2017

The Honorable Kamala D. Harris  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Harris:

As Congress wraps up the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 appropriations process and begins the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 appropriations process, we would like to express our concern with cuts to certain programs in the Trump Administration's FY 2017 supplemental request and FY 2018 budget. Each of these programs is essential to the County and the cuts would have a detrimental impact on our ability to serve our citizens. Specific areas of concern are outlined below:

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Chris Howard, Chair  
Board of Supervisors  
Del Norte County, California