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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 28, 2009

The Honorable Shaun Donovan  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
451 Seventh Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Secretary Donovan:

As the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) considers applications for the second Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP2) created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, I would like to bring to your attention the urgent need for NSP 2 awards across Ohio.

In my first two years as a United States Senator, I visited every county in Ohio, meeting with community leaders and discussing ways the federal government can address the issues they face. Time and again Ohioans expressed concerns about the redevelopment of blighted residential land created by the foreclosure crisis.

Ohio has been particularly hard hit by the economic downturn. The state's economy, based largely on manufacturing over the past decade, has taken a severe hit. Major corporations are either leaving the state or simply closing their doors, causing once stable and prospering communities to struggle. Cities have seen their populations dwindle and their neighborhoods ravaged by predatory lending and foreclosures.

State and local leaders are working hard to turn Ohio's situation around, but lack the resources to address the growing demands. We need active participation by the federal government. The first Neighborhood Stabilization Program created by the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 was a good first step in helping Ohio communities rebuild. More resources, however, will be necessary to repair much of the damage caused by the bad economy and reckless lending.

Ohio has submitted 15 applications for NSP2 grants. As HUD reviews each of these applications, I am confident that it will find these plans closely aligned with the goals of NSP2. Please give serious consideration to all 15 proposals for funding. I ask that you keep my office informed on the status of these applications.

Thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator