



Portage County Regional Planning Commission

September 14, 2011

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
713 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Brown:

As appointed representatives of the Portage County Regional Planning Commission, we are writing to you about a matter of utmost concern. It has come to our attention that discussions are currently taking place in Congress to drastically reduce the level of administration for formula funding allocated to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. We are pleased that funding will remain at \$3.5 billion provided for the CDBG programs. The reduction from the current 20% administration to 10% administration would be a significant reduction in CDBG administration funding and would severely slow down or eliminate adequate staffing for these programs that are critical in Portage County that provide direct assistance to those most in need in the community.

The cost to implement the CDBG program is at a breakeven level currently and in past years been at a loss for Portage County Regional Planning Commission. Due to current funding levels, staff has not had a raise in the past 3 years and will not have one for 2012. In fact, the Portage County Regional Planning Commission may already be facing furloughs and this is after a 25% staff reduction in 2010.

As you move forward with the challenge of finalizing the federal budget, we strongly urge you to support maintaining the existing level of administration fees as applied to the CDBG program, so that critical programs at work in Portage County can continue to be properly staffed.

Respectfully,

Thomas A. Smith, Chairman
Portage County Regional Planning Commission



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The Honorable Robert Portman
B40D Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

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