



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
MAYOR

March 7, 2011

The Honorable Spencer Bachus
Chairman
Financial Services Committee
United States House of Representatives
2129 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6050

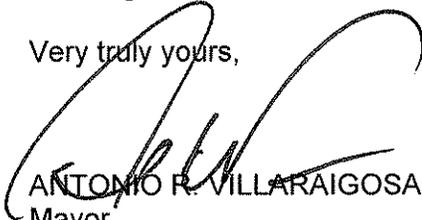
Dear Chairman Bachus:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to H.R. 861, the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) Termination Act. NSP has helped cities across the country address and mitigate the deleterious effects that vacant and blighted properties have on neighborhoods and property values. As a result of the foreclosure crisis, communities throughout the country, including Los Angeles, face significant challenges as foreclosed homes create a vicious cycle of blight, neighborhood decay, and lower property values. NSP has been instrumental in helping to stem this downward spiral by addressing the negative effects of abandoned and foreclosed properties.

In the City of Los Angeles, where, over the past four years, we have an estimated 39,000 foreclosed properties, NSP has played a critical role stabilizing our fragile housing market and helping to construct and rehabilitate a total of 1,200 housing units. Furthermore, at a time when unemployment in our construction industry is at an all-time high, NSP has created more than 900 jobs spurring Los Angeles' economic recovery.

Given the economic challenges facing cities today, I urge the committee to continue funding for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program.

Very truly yours,



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
Mayor

ARV:lp

cc: The Honorable Maxine Waters
The Honorable Brad Sherman

