

**HEARING DATE: 3-2-05**

**THE HONORABLE JOE BACA – STATEMENT.**

CHAIRMAN OXLEY AND RANKING MEMBER FRANK:

I AM PLEASED TO BE HERE TODAY AND TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ASK QUESTIONS OF SECRETARY JACKSON. I ASK UNANIMOUS CONSENT THAT MY STATEMENT BE ENTERED INTO THE RECORD.

THIS HEARING FOCUSES ON THE HUD BUDGET. I AM AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE WHO ARE VERY CONCERNED AT THE DEEP HOUSING CUTS THAT THE PRESIDENT IS PROPOSING.

I AM ALSO CONCERNED THAT THE TRANSFER OF KEY PROGRAMS FROM HUD TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE WILL RESULT IN THE LOSS OF INSTITUTIONAL MEMORY AND EXPERIENCE. IT SIMPLY IS NOT CONCEIVABLE THAT ONE CAN TRANSFER HOUSING PROGRAMS – AND CUT THEM, AND NOT HURT THE PROGRAMS IN THE PROCESS. WE HAVE SEASONED, EXPERIENCED STAFF, AND WE ARE GOING TO LOSE THEM.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE CONTINUE TO SERVE THE UNDERSERVED, AND THAT WE CONTINUE TO PROVIDE INDIVIDUALS WITH AFFORDABLE HOUSING. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR MY COMMUNITY AND THE AREAS SERVED BY ALL OF OUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

I HOPE THAT WE CAN HAVE AN HONEST DIALOG AND CONVERSATION ABOUT THIS, TO ENSURE THAT WE CONTINUE TO BE ABLE TO SERVE THE UNDERSERVED.

THANK YOU.