

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 17, 2016

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Transportation,  
Housing and Urban Development,  
and Related Agencies  
2358-A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Price  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Transportation,  
Housing and Urban Development,  
and Related Agencies  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Diaz-Balart and Ranking Member Price:

As the subcommittee develops its FY2017 appropriations bill, we respectfully urge you to prioritize commitment for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, one of the most effective federal programs for growing local economies and for providing a lifeline to families and communities, with proven results. **We request the subcommittee provide robust funding for CDBG.**

Since FY2005, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has collected accomplishment data for the CDBG program. The data highlights the program's flexibility to design and implement strategies tailored to meet local needs and priorities. It has provided funds in every state, including housing investments, public infrastructure improvements, and economic development, while also providing public services, including services for seniors, youth, the disabled, and employment training.

Despite being a key tool for aiding our communities, the CDBG program, like many programs, has taken a share of deep cuts in recent years, falling substantially—by nearly \$1.4 billion since FY2001. While the program helps more than 1,200 cities, counties, states, and rural areas meet the needs of low- and moderate-income people and communities, funding cuts have severely weakened the ability of grantees to revitalize their communities and respond to local need. We share your commitment to the most effective use of taxpayer dollars, and believe that these grants have proven highly effective. Based on the data that grantees have reported to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development over the past nine years (FY2005 – FY2015), CDBG has:

- Helped over 1.3 million low- and moderate-income persons through single-family, owner-occupied rehabilitation, homeownership assistance, energy-efficient improvements, and lead-based abatement, among other activities;
- Created or retained 369,565 jobs for low- and moderate-income people through a variety of economic development activities;

- Benefited over 40 million low- and moderate-income persons through public improvements including senior centers, child care centers, and centers for people with disabilities;
- Benefited over 122 million low- and moderate-income persons through public services such as employment training, meals and other services to the elderly, services for abused and neglected children, assistance to local food banks, and other services.

Additionally, every \$1.00 of CDBG leverages an additional \$3.65 in non-CDBG funding.

CDBG makes its way into the local economy through an extensive network of local organizations and remains a lifeline for families and communities. It is one federal program that touches the lives of nearly every American in some fashion. Over 7,200 communities have access to the funds and rely on the program to enhance their life and community. The pressing need in the current economy for these funds remains critical.

While we understand the difficult fiscal decisions we must make in Washington, we appreciate your consideration of this important request and strongly urge you to support at least \$3.3 billion for the CDBG program in FY17 to help grow local economies.

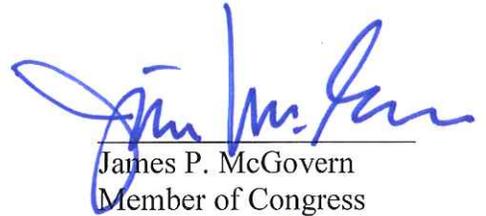
Sincerely,



Robert A. Brady  
Member of Congress



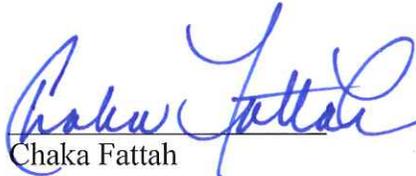
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Peter T. King  
Member of Congress



Chaka Fattah  
Member of Congress



Chris Gibson  
Member of Congress



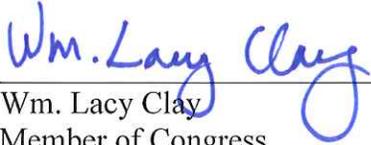
Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress



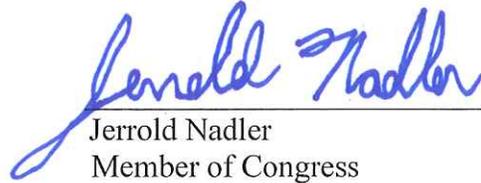
Marcia L. Fudge  
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Filemon Vela  
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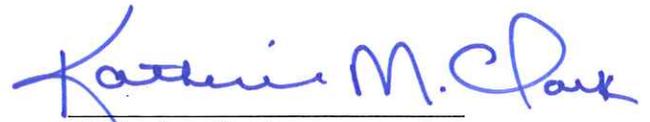
Wm. Lacy Clay  
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Jerrold Nadler  
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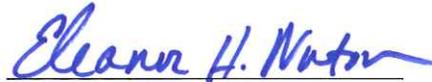
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Katherine Clark  
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Earl Blumenauer  
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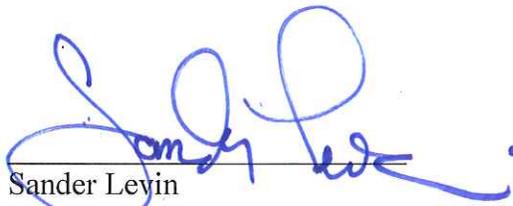
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
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Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



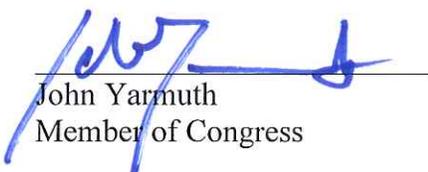
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Sander Levin  
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Alma Adams  
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John Yarmuth  
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Richard E. Neal  
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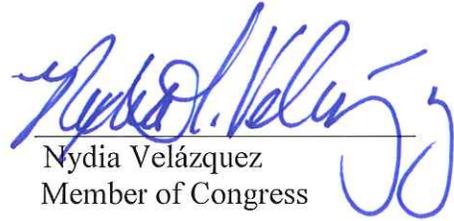
Matt Cartwright  
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Chris Van Hollen  
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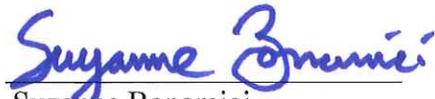
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Nydia Velázquez  
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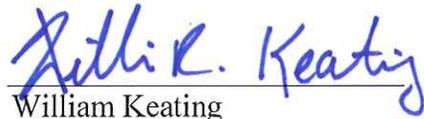
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Suzanne Bonamici  
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Niki Tsongas  
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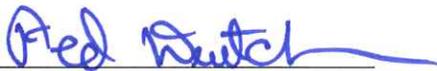
William Keating  
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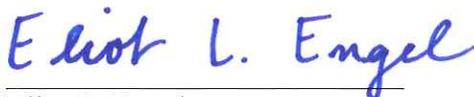
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Corrine Brown

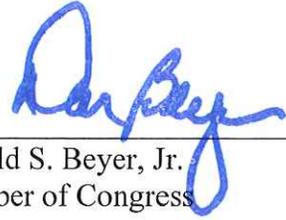
Corrine Brown  
Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson

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Member of Congress



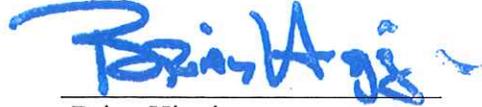
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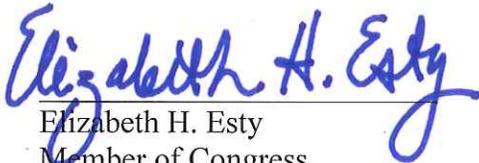
Mike Fitzpatrick  
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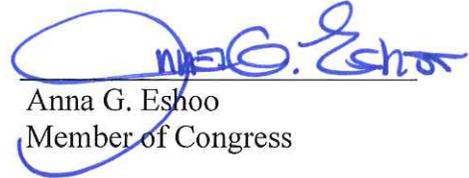
Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



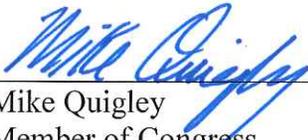
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Elizabeth H. Esty  
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Anna G. Eshoo  
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Mike Quigley  
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Bonnie Watson Coleman  
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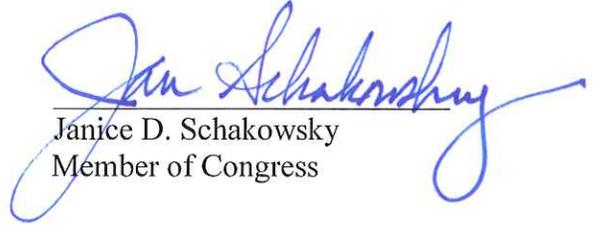
Marc A. Veasey  
Member of Congress



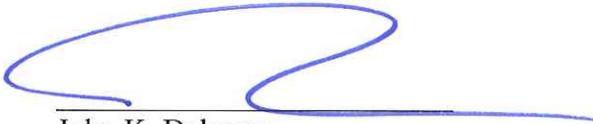
Mark Takai  
Member of Congress



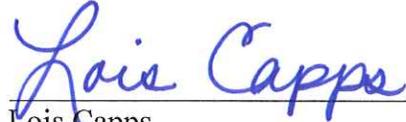
Keith Ellison  
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Janice D. Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



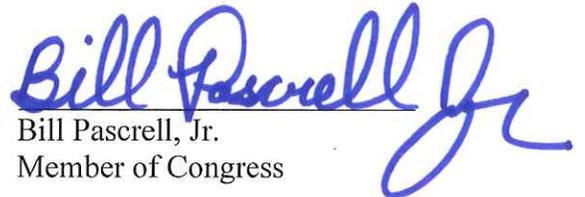
John K. Delaney  
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Lois Capps  
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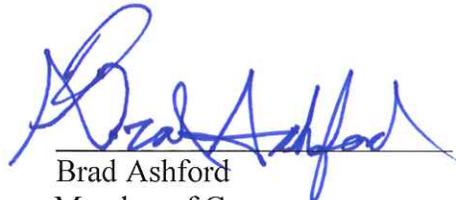
Sam Farr  
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Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
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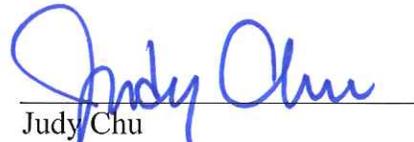
Stacey E. Plaskett  
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Brad Ashford  
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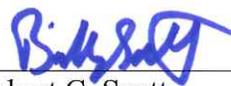
Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



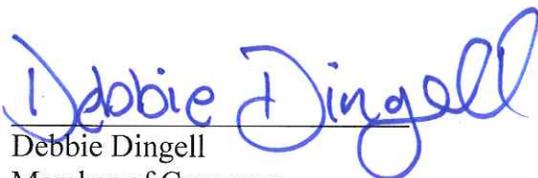
Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



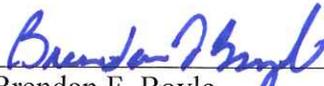
Robert C. Scott  
Member of Congress

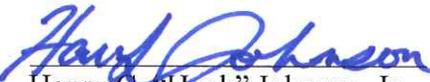


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Adam Smith  
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Brendan F. Boyle  
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
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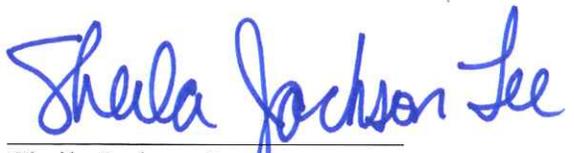
  
Alcee L. Hastings  
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Peter A. DeFazio  
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Michael F. Doyle  
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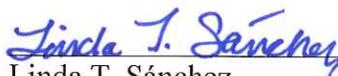
  
Cheri Bustos  
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Jared Polis  
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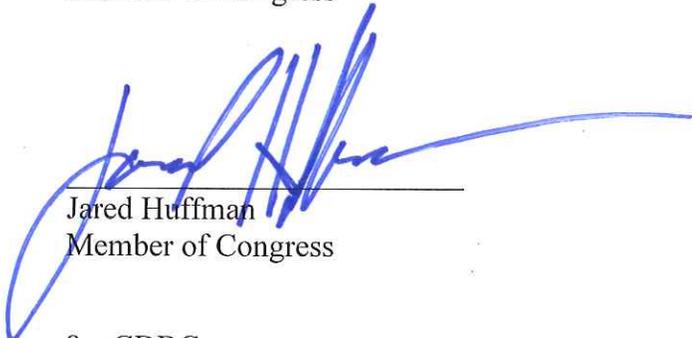
  
Sheila Jackson Lee  
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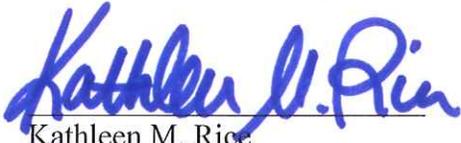
  
John B. Larson  
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Member of Congress

  
Mike Thompson  
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Jared Huffman  
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Gerald E. Connolly  
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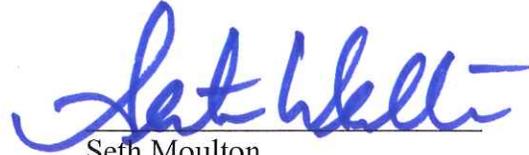
Kathleen M. Rice  
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Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress

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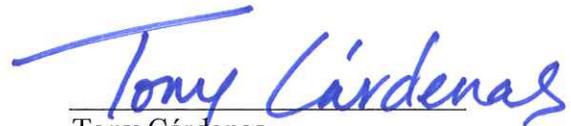
David N. Cicilline  
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Seth Moulton  
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Dan Kildee  
Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas  
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Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



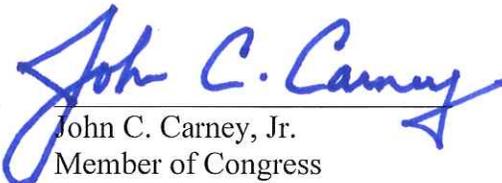
Albio Sires  
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Michael M. Honda  
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John C. Carney, Jr.  
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Paul Tonko  
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Kathy Castor  
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Adam B. Schiff  
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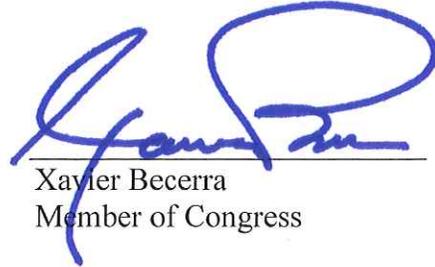
Scott Peters  
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Cedric L. Richmond  
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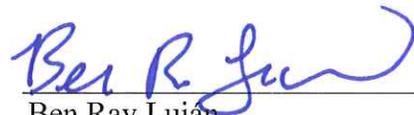
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Xavier Becerra  
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Tulsi Gabbard  
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Ben Ray Lujan  
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Donna F. Edwards  
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Charles B. Rangel  
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Doris O. Matsui  
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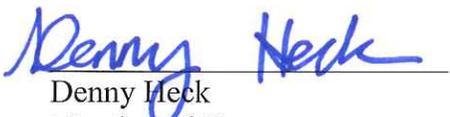
Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress



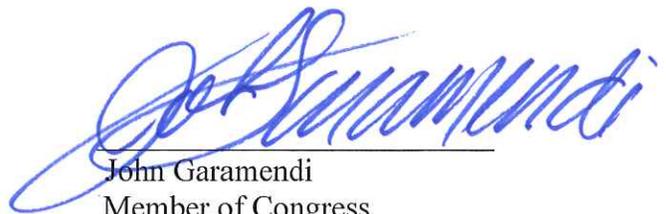
Mark DeSaulnier  
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Emanuel Cleaver  
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Denny Heck  
Member of Congress



John Garamendi  
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Ron Kind  
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Zoe Lofgren  
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Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Ryan A. Costello  
Member of Congress

Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress

Frank A. LoBiondo  
Member of Congress

Loretta Sanchez  
Member of Congress

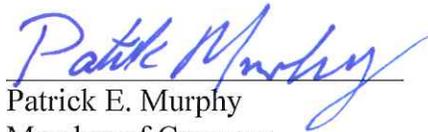
Will Hurd  
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Joe Courtney  
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Barbara Comstock  
Member of Congress

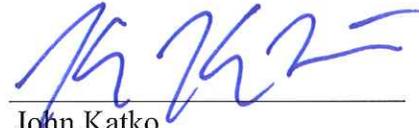
Al Green  
Member of Congress

John Lewis  
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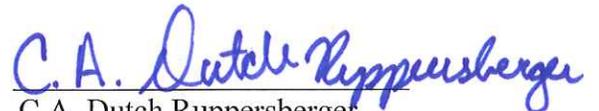
  
Patrick E. Murphy  
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John Katko  
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