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July 8, 2011

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Mayor Sam Kooiker
City of Rapid City
300 Sixth St
Rapid City, SD 57701-5034

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MAYOR'S OFFICE

Dear Mayor Kooiker:

Congratulations on being elected the Mayor of Rapid City! This is an extraordinary honor and it reflects the great confidence the people of Rapid City have in your leadership. Best wishes to you as you assume the responsibilities of the office!

As you may be aware, the former Mayor had expressed concern regarding Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) as administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). I wanted to take this opportunity to send you a quick update concerning CDBG funding. As Chairman of the Senate Banking and Housing Committee, which has jurisdiction over HUD related housing legislation, I am committed to ensuring a proper level of funding for these kinds of programs that support local efforts to build strong communities. I understand the importance of CDBG funding to Rapid City and other communities throughout our state, and I welcome your suggestions concerning how we may best implement these critical initiatives.

On May 5, 2011, the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs held a hearing to examine the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Fiscal Year 2012 budget proposal. The budget requests \$37 billion for funding the Community Development Block Grant formula Fund. This level of funding would mark a \$364 million increase from the FY 2011 funding level.

My position as Chairman of the Senate Banking Committee allows me to recommend funding priorities, as well as to participate in the development and oversight of housing programs administered by HUD. As we move forward with formulating our nation's FY 2012 budget, I will continue working with my colleagues to adequately fund and maintain South Dakota's priorities, including programs like CDBG that provide such valuable assistance to our state.

As Congress and President Obama work to return our country to a responsible long-term budget, tough choices will have to be made. I will continue to fight for South Dakota priorities and support common sense solutions that find ways to ensure vital programs remain available for those that are in need.

Sam Kooiker
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Again, best wishes to you for all your upcoming challenges and opportunities, and most of all, thanks for all you're doing to make South Dakota a great place for everyone! Please let me know if ever I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "T" and "J".

Tim Johnson

TPJ/jbs

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