

2011, thereby keeping the water on the east side of the valley. Through the replacement of the existing restoration plan, we will be able to establish both an environmentally and economically responsible San Joaquin River restoration. This will include a year-round, live river on the San Joaquin but will also ensure a robust east side agriculture economy.

I call on my colleagues to support this bill and these vital provisions which will ensure that farmers in the San Joaquin Valley have water to irrigate their fields, grow crops that feed this nation, and put thousands of people back to work.

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1) making appropriations for the Department of Defense and the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes:

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Chair, I am deeply troubled by the latest attacks on healthcare organizations such as Planned Parenthood that provide preventive and family planning care for millions of women and men across this country.

These centers play key roles in the lives of many who cannot always acquire preventive services elsewhere.

At a time when Americans continue to struggle to afford basic healthcare, eliminating Title X funding would have a devastating impact on women, men and teens in our communities.

As one of the nation's leading advocates for reproductive health, providing access to contraception to breast and cervical cancer screenings, Planned Parenthood serves a very important purpose. I vow to continue my strong support for these vital healthcare services.

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1) making appropriations for the Department of Defense and the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes:

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to language in H.R. 1 that would prevent the Department of Housing and Urban Development from spending money on the Sustainable Communities Initiative. The language in the bill is short-sighted and represents a missed opportunity for communities around the country. Not only will it end a very successful HUD program that has helped

communities large and small plan for growth and coordinate economic development investments, but it could halt a very successful partnership between HUD, the Department of Transportation, and the Environmental Protection Agency that promotes interagency coordination.

Despite the obvious connections between housing, transportation, and land use, these three agencies have not always worked well together in the past. But Secretaries Donovan, LaHood, and Administrator Jackson and their agencies have spent the last year cutting down red tape and coordinating investments to meet multiple economic, environmental, and community objectives.

These efforts not only save money, but they make government more efficient and ensure that the federal government is a better partner to local communities. As we reduce federal investments and watch our communities struggle, this seems like something all members of the House can get behind.

The Sustainable Communities Initiative at HUD provides resources to help communities realize their own visions for more economically competitive communities that generate more jobs, lower housing and transportation costs, and use limited public funds more wisely. Another important function of the Sustainable Communities Initiative at HUD is to provide competitive grant funding. Working with the DOT and EPA, the Initiative offers grants to communities to integrate transportation, housing, land use and energy planning using state of the art data and tools.

These grants go to communities all around the country, large and small, urban and rural. The interest in these has been extraordinary. In 2010, when HUD announced the challenge grants, a total of 630 communities requested \$1.2 billion in funding. HUD was only able to award 61 grants worth \$69 million. HUD's sustainable communities regional planning grants were as popular: 225 regions applied for \$450 million, and HUD was able to award 45 regions a total of \$98 million. This funding is helping to create jobs, drive economic development, provide housing and transportation choices, increase walkability, and improve quality of life.

Eliminating the Sustainable Communities Initiative will deprive the communities who weren't awarded funding in the last round from the opportunity to have their projects funded next time. Because the bill also rescinds unobligated funds, projects that were awarded grants and are already in the pipeline could be cancelled. Even though the grants have been awarded, many of the final contracts have not been signed.

I'd like to highlight a number of the 2010 Community Challenge Planning Grant projects that could be threatened as a result of the bill we have on the Floor today.

The City of Augusta, GA, Augusta State University, and other partners will be awarded \$1.8 million for the Augusta Sustainable Development Implementation Program, which will help plan the redevelopment of the Priority Development Corridor, a 4.5 mile north-south "spine" in the core of Augusta. The project will include a multi-modal transportation corridor; a revision of current codes to facilitate a vibrant, mixed-use, mixed-income development; and a plan for green, affordable housing in Georgia's second-largest city.

The City of Covington, KY, will be awarded \$359,000 to create a Downtown Action Plan

with the active involvement of citizens and stakeholders. Among other things, the plan will increase the number of workers who live downtown near jobs, decreasing traffic and pollution. Partners in the project include the National Development Council, Northern Kentucky University Center for Economic Analysis and Development, Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky, Ohio Kentucky Indiana Regional Council of Governments, Northern Kentucky Area Planning Council and the Covington Business Council.

The City of Flint, MI will be awarded \$1.5 million to replace its existing city master plan with an integrated plan for sustainable development. The outreach process will include neighborhood-level discussion about residents' vision for the plan. Among others, project partners include the Genesee County Chamber of Commerce, University of Michigan-Flint, Hurley Medical Center, and the Community Foundation of Greater Flint.

If this language passes, Grand Traverse County, MI could lose a \$400,000 grant to create a Housing Inventory and Assessment, a County Master Plan, neighborhood revitalization, and affordable housing. The City of Hattiesburg, MS could lose \$150,000 for a plan to lay the foundation for a commercial and residential mixed-use, mixed-income housing district. The City of Claremont, NH could lose \$58,000 to undertake a comprehensive zoning analysis that will identify tools to maintain its historic cityscape, encourage development to maximize use of existing infrastructure, drive private investment and economic development to downtown, and improve the quantity and quality of housing. Oklahoma City could lose \$500,000 to develop a plan that provides an inventory and analysis of existing land availability, identify additional lands that may be designated for industrial use, assess infrastructure needs of that land, set priorities to help guide investment, and facilitate new industrial development.

Many more communities, which I don't have time to list now, have received funding and assistance from the Sustainable Communities Initiatives.

Keep in mind that this is a voluntary grant program. These communities have approached HUD to seek funding to support their own visions for economic revitalization. The grant applications are created from the ground up by local governments in partnership with community and business organizations. An important aspect of each of these projects is citizen outreach and public engagement.

I hope my colleagues will join me in rejecting this short-sighted proposal.

INTRODUCING THE INVESTING IN
OUR FUTURE ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Investing in Our Future Act. This bill will discourage speculation in the financial markets, help us shrink the deficit, and help create a better world for future generations.

Today is the Global Day of Action when hundreds of organizations are calling on the world's governments to create financial transactions taxes to generate billions of dollars to