

mine who represent poor, rural, or undeveloped communities that, H.R. 2099, the fiscal year 1996 VA, HUD appropriation bill contains zero funding for the community development financial institutions fund. The CDFI fund was established after President Clinton signed into law the Community Development Banking and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994—Public Law 103-325. The Congress enacted this landmark, bipartisan initiative by unanimous vote in the Senate and a lopsided 410-to-12 vote in the House last year. The CDFI fund is designed to combine innovative approaches to community lending, advocated by both Democratic and Republican Members of Congress, into a comprehensive strategy to empower local communities and increase their access to credit and investment capital. No other Federal program provides the capital support that is so critically needed to increase the leverage and capacity of community development financial institutions, or to provide incentives for traditional banks and thrifts to enhance community lending and investment activities.

Yet, the House Appropriations Committee recommends eliminating fiscal year 1996 funding for the CDFI fund. That recommendation is particularly appalling after the Congress and the Clinton administration worked out a compromise on the fiscal year 1995 rescission package that provides \$50 million for the CDFI fund and consolidates the fund into the Treasury Department to streamline and reduce administrative costs of the program.

It is incredible to me that partisan politics reemerges suddenly to eliminate fiscal year 1996 funding for what is really a Republican-type initiative—a program with limited Federal funding that leverages private funds to galvanize self-help efforts at community and economic development.

What is particularly sad to me is that, by eliminating funding for the CDFI fund, the House would dash the hopes of hundreds of native American communities across the country which looked to the CDFI fund as a way to stimulate public and private investment in native American communities for the first time ever. The CDFI fund is the underpinnings for another landmark and very innovative proposal which I introduced last year as H.R. 5277, the Native American Financial Services Organization Act of 1994. What we call the NAFSO proposal emanated from recommendations for the congressionally chartered Commission on American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Housing to create a national native American financing organization to address the urgent housing and infrastructure needs of native communities across the community. Through a broad-based national and tribal effort, the proposal evolved into a broader plan addressing housing, infrastructure and economic development needs in native communities.

The NAFSO proposal is a two-tier approach designed to dovetail into the CDFI fund. At the national level, the NAFSO would serve primarily as a technical assistance provider and conduit for CDFI fund assistance to a second tier of primary lender institutions called Native American Financial Institutions, NAFI's. With the infusion of Federal funding through the CDFI fund, NAFI's could develop in native communities around the country to make loans for home mortgages, infrastructure construction and/or improvements, small business development, and consumer loans. A NAFI

would simply be a native American community development financial institution which first; demonstrates a special interest and expertise in serving the primary development and mortgage lending needs of the native American community it serves; and second; demonstrates it has the endorsement of that native American community. As long as the NAFI has that specific focus, it may be any type of financial institution, including a community bank, a savings bank, a mortgage company, or a credit union.

Without any funding for the CDFI fund for fiscal year 1996, native American financial institutions cannot receive infusion of Federal funding to be matched dollar for dollar by local funds raised by the NAFI. Native American communities desperately need this type of Federal-local partnership effort to generate capital in their communities for housing, infrastructure, and economic development purposes.

Native American people endure substandard conditions unmatched by any other population group in the United States: 56 percent of native families live in substandard housing, compared to the national average of 3 percent for non-native families; 28 percent of native households are overcrowded or lack plumbing or kitchen facilities, compared to the average of all U.S. households which is 5.4 percent; 51.4 percent of native Americans on reservations, trust land, or allotted lands own their own home without a mortgage.

The unemployment rate for native Americans generally is 14 percent versus the national average of 6 percent, and in many remote reservations, the unemployment rate is double or triple those rates; 31 percent of native Americans live below the poverty level as opposed to the national poverty rate of about 13 percent. A staggering 51 percent of native Americans living on reservations have incomes below the poverty level.

Only a handful of financial institutions are native-owned, and very few non-native lenders invest in native communities.

It is my fervent hope that the Senate Appropriations Committee will act more wisely and appropriate urgently needed dollars to the CDFI fund for fiscal year 1996. Even with a limited Federal financial contribution to the fund, so many more investment dollars will be generated to help communities across the country, particularly native communities that currently have little or no access to financing for housing, infrastructure or economic development activities. The Senate should make a healthy deposit into the CDFI fund for fiscal year 1996 and I will work to persuade the House Appropriators to accept such a Senate recommendation in conference.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 2099) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Chairman, I rise to oppose the provisions in this VA-HUD appropriations bill which decrease the funding levels for the Environmental Protection Agency. These provisions not only severely limit the agency's ability to protect our lands, air, and water; they also continue the full-scale assault on the environment that began on the first day of the 104th Congress.

Mr. Chairman, this bill's funding cuts directly threaten the quality of America's air and water, the safety of America's food supply, and the health of all Americans. This bill would prohibit the EPA from enforcing or implementing most Clean Water Act programs; end protection for wetlands; prohibit many EPA actions with respect with enforcement of the Clean Air Act; and prohibit the EPA from preventing the use of certain cancer causing pesticides on crops, even if residues from these crops end up in processed foods.

The bill's spending cuts would also freeze all future cleanups of Superfund sites—regardless of the health and environmental risks posed by a site.

While there is agreement that some reforms are necessary to make these Federal programs more responsive, the spending cuts in this bill are nothing more than a blatant attempt to undermine the effectiveness of the EPA and to permanently cripple our Nation's environmental laws.

Poll after poll have indicated that the American people favor strong environmental laws. We should not be willing to sacrifice the health and safety of our constituents on the altar of regulatory reform. For the families, children, and citizens of America, I urge my colleagues to restore full funding for the EPA.

DR. GEORGE WASHINGTON CRANE
III

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 1995

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, last week my father, who celebrated his 94th birthday last April, passed away in his sleep. Mercifully, he did not undergo the pain and suffering at the end that so many go through before shuffling off this mortal coil.

I missed 2 days of legislative business to attend his funeral which filled me with mixed emotions. The first, of course, was sadness over losing my father, who was an idol to all of us kids in the family. But I take comfort in the conviction that we will all be reunited in time and that a lifetime is but a wink of the eye in eternity.

The second emotion I experienced was joy over the opportunity to visit with family, relatives, and friends, many of whom I had not seen personally in years. It was a touching family reunion. And I'm convinced my father was experiencing joy in heaven through a family reunion there with all who preceded him.

The eulogy for my father was delivered by Dr. E. Duane Hulse, who married a close