

Sudan that was supposed to bring some reconciliation and relief to the Darfuri refugees is of little value at this time. The agreement is crumbling, the refugees are desperate, and, frankly, I think it is crucial that we rely more upon the Members of this body asking the administration to again intercede.

We understand that there has been an envoy that has been sent, but there is no understanding of his or her purpose to be able to solidify this agreement that is falling apart. It would be far better for this Congress to address this as a collective body, because it is urgent. It is a crisis. The Darfuri refugees are suffering. There is violence and there is no relief.

There needs to be more funding for the African Union peacekeepers. The U.N. needs to be in place. And, frankly, scores by independent polling surveys should not be the answer to the solution for saving those in Sudan.

AFFORDABLE RURAL HOUSING

(Mr. HINOJOSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of increasing the availability and affordability and quality of rural housing in the United States. It is a long time coming.

To move towards this goal, I have introduced two pieces of legislation. H.R. 5896, the Housing Assistance Council Authorization Act of 2006, authorizes \$10 million for HAC in fiscal year 2007 and \$15 million for fiscal years 2008 through 2012. This will enable the council to further improve housing conditions for the rural poor, particularly the poorest of the poor in the most rural places in the United States.

H.R. 6044, the Rural Housing and Economic Development Enhancement Act of 2006, authorizes \$30 million for the RHED program in fiscal year 2007 and \$40 million for fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage members of the Congressional Rural Housing Caucus and all of my other colleagues in the House of Representatives to cosponsor these bills.

I rise today in support of increasing the availability, affordability and quality of rural housing in the United States. It is a long time coming.

To move toward this goal, I have introduced two pieces of legislation.

H.R. 5896, the "Housing Assistance Council Authorization Act of 2006" authorizes \$10 million for HAC in fiscal year 2007, and \$15 million for fiscal year 2008 through fiscal year 2012. This will enable the Council to further improve housing conditions for the rural poor, particularly the poorest of the poor in the most rural places in the United States.

It will also enable "HAC" to offer additional services to public, nonprofit, and private organizations throughout the rural United States.

H.R. 6044, the "Rural Housing and Economic Development Enhancement Act of

2006," authorizes \$30 million for the RHED program in fiscal year 2007 and \$40 million for fiscal year 2008 through fiscal year 2012.

These authorizations will help the program provide additional funding to increase and improve capacity building at the State and local level and support innovative housing and economic development activities in rural areas.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage the members of the Congressional Rural Housing Caucus, and all my other colleagues in the House of Representatives, to cosponsor these bills.

They will both improve rural housing and the lives of our constituents in rural areas. I ask that letters of support and a copy of the bills be made a part of the RECORD.

RURAL HOUSING
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION,
Provo, UT, August 14, 2006.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
*House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN HINOJOSA: Thank you for writing and introducing H.R. 5896, which will authorize funding support for the Housing Assistance Council (HAC). Our nonprofit agency, Rural Housing Development Corporation, has worked with the Housing Assistance Council for several years. HAC helps local organizations such as ours build affordable housing. Our experience with HAC has been tremendous as we have received several SHOP awards since 1999. I have also attended the last three housing conferences held by HAC every other year in Washington, D.C. and appreciate the valuable information and networking provided.

I also thank you for your outstanding leadership on housing issues and your creation of the Congressional Rural Housing Caucus.

Sincerely,

BRAD BISHOP,
Executive Director.

COMITE DE BIEN ESTAR, INC.,
San Luis, AZ, August 7, 2006.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
*House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN HINOJOSA: Thank you for writing and introducing H.R. 5896, which will authorize funding support for the Housing Assistance Council (HAC). The Comité de Bien Estar has worked with the Housing Assistance Council for seven years. HAC helps local organizations such as ours build affordable housing.

Our experience with HAC has been mutually beneficial. We were able to acquire SHOP funds for our second Self Help Housing grant from USDA Rural Development only two years after becoming a Self Help grantee. These funds have been used to help us acquire land for development of infrastructure and lots for the Self Help program. We are currently using a \$660,000 SHOP loan for our eighth subdivision where 174 self help families will build their homes over the next three years. The SHOP conversion funds we have are going to help develop an 80-acre subdivision exclusively for the Self Help program families.

Thank you also for your outstanding leadership on housing issues and your creation of the Congressional Rural Housing Caucus.

Sincerely,

JOHN MCGRADY.

FLORIDA HOME PARTNERSHIP,
Ruskin, FL, August 3, 2006.

Re H.R. 5896 funding for the Housing Assistance Council.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
*House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN HINOJOSA: Thank you for writing and introducing H.R. 5896, which

will authorize funding support for the Housing Assistance Council (HAC). Florida Home Partnership, Inc. has worked with the Housing Assistance Council for seven years. HAC has provided our agency with much needed technical assistance and capacity building during our ongoing relationship. Many of the agencies we work with receive similar assistance from HAC.

We build in excess of fifty homes per year utilizing the USDA self-help housing method in rural Hillsborough County Florida. Over the years, we have received over \$3,000,000 in SHOP dollars via HAC. This has helped fund 450 homes which have either been delivered, are in construction, or in the site development process.

HAC has provided us with construction bonding, capacity building grants, extensive training, and technical assistance. In our capacity as a sub-recipient of HAC SHOP funds, we have been able to retain a portion of SHOP funds. This has allowed us to leverage these dollars and obtain alternate funding.

In addition, the return portion of HAC's SHOP funds, has allowed us to establish an identity as an organization with a positive net worth. This net worth has built gradually over the last seven years.

Thank you also for your outstanding leadership on housing issues and your creation of the Congressional Rural Housing Caucus.

Respectfully,

EARL ALLEN PFEIFFER,
Executive Director.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
OF SOUTH TEXAS, INC.,
McAllen, TX, July 31, 2006.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
*House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN HINOJOSA: Thank you for introducing H.R. 5896, a bill to authorize funding for the Housing Assistance Council ("HAC"). McAllen Affordable Homes and the Community Development Corporation of South Texas strongly support Congressional funding for the Housing Assistance Council. HAC helps local organizations such as ours build affordable housing, particularly in the rural areas. While our experience with HAC is relatively short compared to countless other local Community Development groups around the country, the assistance that HAC provides the local groups working in the most difficult areas of our country is critical. As your district office here in the Valley can attest to, the assistance that HAC recently provided to us has made a significant impact in our communities, including your hometown of Mercedes.

Furthermore, I would also like to thank you for the kind words you sent along during our anniversary reception for MAHI (30 years) and CDCST (5 years). Salomon Torres shared with the audience your appreciation and respect to our founders for the vision that they had 30 years ago. I, of course, proudly mentioned that you hosted the organizational meeting responsible for kicking off the CDCST and we proudly list you as a valued Advisory Board Member.

Thank you for your outstanding leadership on housing issues and your creation of the Congressional Rural Housing Caucus.

Sincerely,

ROBERT A. CALVILLO,
Executive Director.

HOUSING ASSISTANCE COUNCIL,
Washington, DC, July 27, 2006.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
*House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN HINOJOSA: Thank you very much for authoring and introducing

H.R. 5896, a bill to authorize appropriations for the Housing Assistance Council, and for your vision and leadership in creating the Rural Housing Caucus.

The board and staff of HAC share your goals of expanding the availability of safe and affordable rural housing, creating homeownership for rural Americans, building and preserving rural rental units, and eliminating substandard rural housing conditions. We look forward to working with you on these attainable and worthy goals.

We also appreciate the outstanding work of Greg Davis of your staff.

Sincerely,

MOISES LOZA,
Executive Director.

PROYECTO AZTECA,
San Juan, TX, August 1, 2006.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN HINOJOSA: It's with great pleasure that I write this letter to commend you for your commitment and dedication to providing affordable housing for rural communities. I recently learned of your work in writing and introducing H.R. 5896, which will authorize funding support for the Housing Assistance Council (HAC). Proyecto Azteca has worked with the Housing Assistance Council for the past 12 years. Our partnership with HAC is essential to building affordable housing for colonia communities in the Rio Grande Valley.

Thank you also for your outstanding leadership on housing issues and your creation of the Congressional Rural Housing Caucus.

Sincerely,

DAVID ARIZMENDI,
Executive Director.

AUGUST 2, 2006.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN HINOJOSA: Thank you so very much for writing and introducing H.R. 5896 which will authorize funding support for the Housing Assistance Council, Inc.!

Community Services Programs, Inc. has worked with the Housing Assistance Council, Inc. (HAC) for more than twenty (20) years and together we have constructed more than 200 units of housing for very low income and special needs households, inclusive of victims of domestic violence, in the Hudson River Valley Region of New York State.

In fact, with pre-development loans provided by HAC, our organization developed one of the first New York State Housing Trust Fund developments (and was actually the first to close with this program that has provided over \$500,000,000.00 of funding statewide since 1985); was the absolute first to close on a New York State capital HOME Project in 1994; was the only developer to build actual family housing under New York State's "HOMES FOR WORKING FAMILIES" Program in 2002 and since; and, just recently our organization undertook the development of 52 units of New York State Low Income Housing Tax Credits' financed housing. This development is one of only a handful of SLIHTC stand alone developments in the State.

It is often believed that New York is a large, metropolitan State and that is simply not true. Along with the rural nature of much of our State is the same lack of available financial resources for pre-development, acquisition and actual development activities. With the support of HAC over the past twenty (20) years, our organization has been able to create more than 200 housing units with many more expected to come on line!

HAC has an extremely dedicated, knowledgeable and committed Staff who fulfill its organization's mission on a daily basis. Your direct support of HAC is so very welcomed and such an invaluable investment in rural housing. Please know that you have an open invitation to visit our housing units that "but for" HAC, may never have been built!

With most sincere appreciation for your outstanding leadership on housing issues and your creation of the Congressional Rural Housing Caucus, I remain,

Very Truly yours,

M. T. O'LEARY,
Chief Executive Officer.

FRONTIER HOUSING,
Morehead, KY, September 5, 2006.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN HINOJOSA: Thank you for writing and introducing H.R. 5896, which will authorize funding support for the Housing Assistance Council (HAC). Frontier Housing has worked with the HAC for many years. HAC helps local organizations such as ours build affordable housing. Our experience with HAC has allowed us to find numerous affordable housing solutions for families in eastern Kentucky.

Thank you also for your exceptional leadership on housing issues and your creation of the Congressional Rural Housing Caucus.

Sincerely,

STACEY EPPERSON,
Executive Director.

SELF-HELP ENTERPRISES,
Vialia, CA, August 1, 2006.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN HINOJOSA: I wanted to take a moment to say "Thank You" for your work in writing and introducing H.R. 5896, which will authorize funding support for the Housing Assistance Council (HAC). Self-Help Enterprises has worked in partnership with the Housing Assistance Council for over 30 years, so we know firsthand the work that HAC does in helping local organizations such as ours build affordable housing in rural America.

As you may remember, Self-Help Enterprises serves the housing and community needs of California's San Joaquin Valley. Like so many communities in your district, our communities often lack the most basic elements of life: decent affordable housing, clean drinking water, and adequate sewage disposal. Even when there are federal and state resources available to address community needs, the capacity of local organizations to access those resources is often limited.

The Housing Assistance Council has a remarkable track record in assisting local organizations in the most rural, and often overlooked, regions of our nation. HAC's work expands local capacity, increases access to valuable resources, and helps to focus national attention of the needs of the communities you care about in your district and across the rural America. Your support of their work, with the introduction of H.R. 5896, means a lot to those of us who care about rural housing.

Thank you also for your outstanding leadership on housing issues and your creation of the Congressional Rural Housing Caucus. I know from our conversations that you truly care about the people of rural America and the communities they call home.

Sincerely,

PETER N. CAREY,
CEO.

VERMONT HOUSING &
CONSERVATION BOARD,
Montpelier, Vermont, August 3, 2006.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN HINOJOSA: I am writing to thank you for introducing H.R. 5896 authorizing funding for the Housing Assistance Council. As you know, HAC helps housing organizations throughout rural America build affordable housing. Over the years they have worked with a number of organizations in Vermont, providing technical assistance, capacity building, and loans for rural housing developments. Those organizations find them to be an important and enormously helpful resource.

Again, thank-you for introducing this bill as well as for your leadership on other housing issues, especially those faced by rural communities.

Sincerely,

POLLY NICHOL,
Director of Housing Programs.

DELMARVA RURAL MINISTRIES, INC.,
Dover, DE, August 1, 2006.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN HINOJOSA: I take this opportunity to thank you for writing and introducing H.R. 5896, which authorizes funding for the Housing Assistance Council (HAC). Delmarva Rural Ministries, Inc. has worked with the Housing Assistance Council for the past seventeen years. Through HAC's support, expertise and technical assistance, local community based organizations such as ours are better able to develop decent safe and affordable housing for low to moderate income households residing in rural America.

Our experience with HAC dates back to 1989 when HAC provided interim financing that enabled Delmarva Rural Ministries, Inc. to secure a site that resulted in the development of our first farm labor housing, James Leonard Apartments, a thirty four unit farm labor housing apartment complex located in Wicomico County, Maryland. Interim financing from HAC played a crucial role in the development of our second rental housing project for farmworkers, Elizabeth Cornish Landing Apartments in Bridgeville, Delaware. Had it not been for HAC's support, we would have lost the site. The ECL Apartments was a Ninth Round Awardee for the Fannie Mae Maxwell Awards of Excellence.

Finally, I want to also commend you for your outstanding leadership on housing issues and your creation of the Congressional Rural Housing Caucus.

Sincerely,

DEBRA D. SINGLETARY,
CEO.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT, INC.,
Turners Fall, MA, August 1, 2006.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN HINOJOSA: Thank you for writing and introducing H.R. 5896, which will authorize funding support for the Housing Assistance Council (HAC). Rural Development, Inc. (RDI) has worked with the Housing Assistance Council for over ten years. HAC is invaluable to local organizations such as ours that build affordable housing. HAC has assisted RDI in a number of ways over the years:

They have loaned us pre-development funds at low or no interest for seven projects.

They have helped us obtain several capacity building grants.

They have awarded us a green building grant.

They have hosted national and regional training conferences that my staff and I have attended.

They publish a very informative quarterly magazine on rural affordable housing issues. They publish a frequent online newsletter that keeps us informed of timely issues.

HAC is an organization that deserves congressional support and I again thank you for that support.

Thank you also for your outstanding leadership on housing issues and your creation of the Congressional Rural Housing Caucus.

Sincerely,

ANNE PERKINS,

Director of Homeownership Programs.

To: Representative Hinojosa

From: Debbie Gass

Date: August 29, 2006

Subject: H.R. 5896—Housing Assistance Council (HAC).

DEAR CONGRESSMAN HINOJOSA: Thank you for writing and introducing H.R. 5896, which will authorize funding support for the Housing Assistance Council (HAC). Southern Maryland Tri-County Community Action Committee, Inc. (SMTCCAC, Inc.) has worked with the Housing Assistance Council for many years. HAC assists non-profit organizations such as ours build affordable housing. Our experience with HAC has always resulted in a positive experience. Without HAC we would have been unable to build many of our affordable homeownership units in Southern Maryland.

Over the last 30 years, our agency has built over 350 self-help homeownership units and over 250 rental units for low income families. Without HAC, this would have been an impossible task for us. We would not have had access to necessary capital to finance site development and it would be necessary to rely on the private lending industry to provide development financing, as well as letters of credits for the bonds. Without having the site improvements in place, there is inadequate equity in the unimproved land and most nonprofit development organizations do not have the necessary security to offer the bank, making it necessary for the nonprofit to place cash on deposit in addition to offering up the land as security. This adds tremendous cost to the project and ultimately to the improved lot. HAC has provided SMTCCAC, Inc. with many low interest loans to finance these developments/lots therefore, keeping the cost to the low-income family affordable.

Thank you also for your outstanding leadership on housing issues and your creation of the Congressional Rural Housing Caucus. I hope that you will continue to support the Housing Assistance Council and their efforts to provide financing to non-profit organizations and assist families in obtaining the American dream of homeownership.

Sincerely,

DEBRA A. GASS,
SMTCCAC, Inc.,
Program Director.

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SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. SCHMIDT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO PERISHED

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take Mr. DEFAZIO's time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Washington is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, across America yesterday, we paused to honor the innocent Americans who perished 5 years ago on 9/11. A memorial day is a time for reflection. It also can be a time for action.

As a doctor, I know that grief can be debilitating, but it can also be motivating. There is something America can do to transform our grief into positive action.

Right now, half a world away, there is incomprehensible pain and suffering going on in Darfur. Imagine human suffering on a scale 150 times worse than 9/11. Over 470,000 people in Darfur have gone hungry for the last 3 months. They are cut off from humanitarian aid. They are innocent victims in the middle of what can be described either as genocide or homicide.

The estimates range from 200,000 to half a million innocent people who have been slaughtered in just 3 years. That is the equivalent of a 9/11 attack every single week for 3 full years. That level of death and suffering in our world today might be incomprehensible except that it is happening. It is a reality.

Peacekeepers from the African Union have slowed the genocide, but they are slated to leave Darfur at the end of the month. No one doubts the killing will resume if the Sudanese Government is left without an outside force attempting to restrain them. Unless we intervene, there will be 200, 300, who knows how many times 9/11s in Darfur, to people just as innocent as the Americans who perished 5 years ago.

It is true that the United Nations passed a resolution last month calling for a new peacekeeping force in Darfur, but the Sudanese Government responsible for the killings must approve deployment of these peacekeepers. Nothing more than lip service is going to occur unless we lead the world in demanding an end to the killings, backed up by a multinational force that can finally protect innocent people.

Last year, I and other Members of Congress, Democrats and Republicans, traveled to the Sudan. We visited camps along the border with Chad and met countless refugees. These were people who lost their homes, belongings, and loved ones. Everything.

A corrupt government says these are people guilty of being born with a certain color of skin and into a particular

tribe. Punishment for innocence is death.

The world has seen this before. We know what to do; we simply aren't doing it. The number of innocent people literally starving to death in Darfur is 150 times the number of Americans who perished during 9/11. Humanitarian aid cannot reach them, and that is the situation with soldiers from the African Union attempting to enforce a peace. What chance do these people have if modest peacekeeping efforts disappear at the end of September?

First and foremost, the President should declare Darfur a global crisis and reinforce such a position with diplomacy aimed at uniting the world against evil. Other nations are better positioned diplomatically to demand that the Sudanese Government pay attention.

In close cooperation with other governments, we should do everything from establishing a no-fly zone to keep Sudanese helicopter gunships grounded to serving notice on the Sudanese Government that innocent people should not be starved to death.

Before 9/11, crises as far away as Sudan perhaps didn't find much room in the American consciousness. Post-9/11, we cannot help but see that death, poverty, and injustice anywhere in the world affects those of us who live in the United States.

Yesterday across America, we stopped to remember 9/11. In Darfur, we can honor the Americans who died on 9/11 by preventing tens of thousands of innocent people in Darfur from dying right before our eyes. We have 21 days to unite the world against attacks as horrifying as 9/11. This can be a defining moment for our Nation. I hope the President sees it as just that and acts before it is too late.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 994, EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED AGAINST THE UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Mr. GINGREY, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-646) on the resolution (H. Res. 996) providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 994) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives on the fifth anniversary of the terrorist attacks launched against the United States on September 11, 2001, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2965, FEDERAL PRISON INDUSTRIES COMPETITION IN CONTRACTING ACT OF 2006

Mr. GINGREY, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report