

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0301

July 28, 2015

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
Chairman
House Judiciary Committee
2138 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Trent Franks
Chairman
Subcommittee on the Constitution
and Civil Justice
House Judiciary Committee
B336 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Goodlatte and Franks,

On July 8, 2015, the Obama Administration through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced a new regulation known as Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH). The final rule was subsequently published in the federal register on July 16, 2015, and will take effect 30 days after this publication. We write to respectfully request that you consider holding a hearing on H.R. 1995, the Local Zoning and Property Rights Protection Act.

The AFFH rule seeks to use the disparate impact legal theory to justify social engineering of local neighborhoods. It would do so by withholding Community Development Block Grant funds from towns and cities unless they meet utopian standards of integration based on sex, income, religion race and other federally protected demographics. HUD is essentially creating a set of rules and regulations by which communities must conform, or face losing out on tens of millions of dollars in grant money annually. Further, the rule will result in increased local taxes, depress property values, and cause further harm to impoverished communities that actually need these funds.

The Local Zoning and Property Rights Protect Act blocks the new AFFH regulation, as well as the accompanying "Assessment Tool" meant to guide grant applicants and measure compliance. It also contains an important federalism provision that requires HUD to consult with local governments and communities for the purposes of furthering the Fair Housing Act of 1968, rather than through executive mandate.

This new Washington mandate has nothing to do with race, as housing discrimination has been illegal for more than 40 years. This overreaching new regulation is an attempt to extort communities into giving up control of local zoning decisions and reengineer the makeup of our neighborhoods.

The House of Representatives has already voted twice to defund the AFFH rule during consideration of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development funding bills for fiscal years 2015 and 2016 (please see Roll Call Vote no. 285 from the 113th Congress and Roll Call Vote no. 311 from the 114th Congress).

We respectfully urge the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice to hold a hearing on this subject so that members may hear important testimony and ask questions about the rule itself, as well as this much-needed legislation. We thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



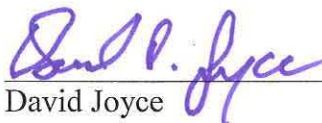
Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress



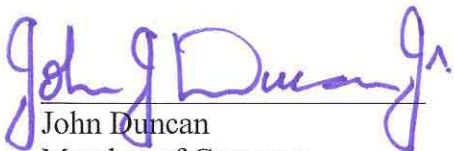
Doug LaMalfa
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Thomas Massie
Member of Congress



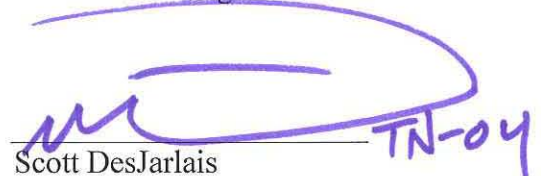
David Joyce
Member of Congress



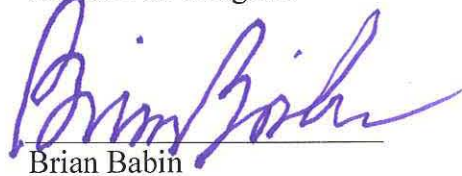
John Duncan
Member of Congress



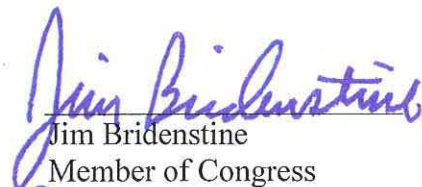
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