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For Immediate Release

NCDA Opposes Withholding of CDBG Funds from Sanctuary Cities

Washington, DC -

On Thursday, August 3, 2017, Senators John Cornyn (R-TX), John Barrasso (R-WY), Ron Johnson (R-WI) and Thom Tillis (R-NC) introduced the Building America's Trust Act that provide \$15 billion over four years to beef up Mexico border security and clamp down on sanctuary cities. Senator Cornyn, the lead sponsor of the bill, defines sanctuary cities as those state and local governments that don't cooperate with federal immigration authorities.

Section 308 of the bill includes the Stop Dangerous Sanctuary Cities Act that conservative Republicans have tried to push through Congress the last couple of years, with no success. The measure defines a sanctuary city as any state or political subdivision of a state that has laws in place that prohibit or restrict the sharing of citizenship information or immigration status or fails to comply with a federal detainer request. These sanctuary jurisdictions would be ineligible to receive Economic Development Administration (EDA) grants and Community Development Block (CDBG) grants.

The National Community Development Association (NCDA) opposes any measure that threatens to withhold critical CDBG funding from local governments. "It's unfair to hold entire jurisdictions hostage, including tax paying citizens, from receiving federal resources that provide such important benefit to their communities," said Vicki Watson, NCDA's Executive Director. "Congress needs to propose a more sensible solution that takes CDBG out of the mix."