Senator \_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

As someone concerned about the well-being of rural communities in our state, I’m writing to respectfully ask you to oppose the rescissions package (H.R. 3) that is currently under consideration. A number of the provisions target programs that benefit rural communities where there is tremendous need. Those communities shouldn’t be punished because bureaucratic hurdles have prevented the agencies from spending the funds.

I am particularly concerned about cuts to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development programs and the U.S. Treasury’s Capital Magnet Fund. These programs support needed community development in rural areas throughout our state and the country.

The technical assistance nonprofit organizations provide through the water/wastewater grant programs at USDA Rural Development is essential for rural communities to maintain compliance with federal regulations. USDA also provides vital funding for rural community facilities and rental assistance for low-income USDA housing renters. All three of these programs are slated for rescissions, in spite of the fact that they all have a backlog of applications.

The Capital Magnet Fund program in the Treasury Department, provides critical capital to community development financial institutions that deploy capital to rural communities to develop low-income housing. The CDFIs, like RCAC, that receive these funds use it to leverage and attract private investments that help build much-needed housing that people can actually afford. With the costs of housing increasing all over the state and throughout the west, this capital infusion is essential to ensuring the continued affordability of housing in rural areas.

Living in a rural area shouldn’t mean you have to live without the basics like water and housing. I ask you to oppose these provisions of the rescissions package to help keep our rural communities strong.

Sincerely,