



Main Street Skowhegan
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November 12, 2015

Dear Deborah,

On behalf of Main Street Skowhegan, we submit this letter in opposition to the elimination of \$500,000 of funding from the 2016 Community Development Block Grant Program. We urge you to please reconsider this decision.

Community Block Development Grants have been a great help in revitalizing Skowhegan over the last several years. We have used these grants for the following:

- To leverage a half a million dollars of new infrastructure investment for better pedestrian-crossing lights, street lamps, and sidewalk redesign, ultimately making our streets safer and more pedestrian friendly.
- To improve 11 commercial building exteriors through our first Facade Improvement Program in 2008, an initial step in enhancing the beauty of our downtown.
- To develop the downtown Renaissance Center, resulting in the completion of a public bathroom, an elevator providing access to the second floor of several buildings, a pedestrian walkway, and commercial properties.
- To enhance the exteriors of 17 commercial buildings through our second Facade Improvement Program in 2010, increasing the attractiveness of downtown shops and storefronts.

Without these grants and support from the Maine Downtown Center, our downtown wouldn't look like it does today. Façade improvements and enhancements to the walkability and public spaces of the downtown are extremely important in the revitalization process, and these grants have helped Skowhegan come a long way in increasing the attractiveness and accessibility of downtown.

The Maine Downtown Center has also played a significant role in our downtown revitalization. Their services are crucial to our Main Street programs, and they've provided more support, help, and friendly advice than can ever be measured. Cutting funding to this program would be detrimental to developing Main Street communities.

We urge you to please reconsider the elimination of \$500,000 from the 2016 CDBG Program. Progress in communities across the state will be significantly slowed without this monetary and personal support.

Best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'KMC', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kristina Cannon
Executive Director, Main Street Skowhegan

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Matt Dubois', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Matt Dubois
President, Board of Directors, Main Street Skowhegan