



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-7000

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT

November 17, 2010

Mr. Ross Rutledge
OMB Desk Officer
Office Management and Budget
New Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Mr. Rutledge:

The Department is seeking emergency review of the Paperwork Reduction Act requirements for a new information collection which supports the Rural Innovation Fund grant program, which was Authorized in the Appropriations Act, 2010 (Pub. L. 111-117 approved December 16, 2009).

The Notice of Paperwork Submission (copy enclosed), proposed for immediate Federal Register publication, explains the burden of the collection requirements and invites public comments on them.

In compliance with the requirements of 5 CFR 1320.13, this letter requests emergency processing within 14 days from the date of this letter. The collection of this information is necessary because following the normal clearance procedures is reasonably likely to result in the public harm is likely to result if normal clearance procedures are followed. Such harm will accrue to potential grant recipients under this program that are located in the most rural and impoverished areas of the United States and the lower-income residents in the service target area who are the beneficiaries of the program. This program provides vital grant assistance to the eligible applicants to undertake critical affordable housing programs and job creating economic development programs in these underserved areas.

The shortened processing period that we are requesting will ensure the provision of the much needed benefits of this program and help potential layoff of existing grantee personnel.

Thank you for your consideration and assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Duncan".

Robert Duncan
Associate Deputy Assistant
Secretary for Economic
Development