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Smart Growth America statement on House Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) Funding for FY 2014

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Washington, DC – Earlier today the House Appropriations Subcommittee introduced the fiscal year 2014 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development funding bill. In response, Geoff Anderson, President and CEO of Smart Growth America, issued the following statement:

“The cuts included in this bill would have a devastating impact on communities across America.

“Rural, suburban and urban places alike all rely on Department of Transportation and Department of Housing and Urban Development programs to support their local economies. The cuts proposed in the House’s bill would make it harder for these communities to spur private investment, create jobs, revitalize downtowns, and increase the supply of affordable housing in virtually every state.

“In particular, the lack of funding for HUD’s Office of Economic Resilience—which helps communities support planning efforts to expend job opportunities and improve the quality of life for families—would cripple the work of many communities that are rebuilding their economies. The type of integrated regional planning spurred by this program helps communities, the federal government and most importantly the taxpayer get the greatest return on investment.

“In addition, cuts to programs like the Community Development Block Grants mean many cities and towns will have difficulty funding local economic development initiatives, homeownership programs and other critical services. These grants are the lifeblood of community improvement for thousands of cities and towns, and the proposed 50% funding cut to the program will mean fewer resources for communities that need them the most.

“Congress is facing many challenges this year, but cutting programs that enable local communities to generate economic development would be an enormous setback to our economic recovery.”

Smart Growth America is the only national organization dedicated to researching, advocating for and leading coalitions to bring better development strategies to more communities nationwide. From providing more sidewalks to ensuring more homes are built near public transportation or that productive farms remain a part of our communities, smart growth helps make sure people across the nation can live in great neighborhoods. For more information visit www.smartgrowthamerica.org.

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