[Date]

[Senator/Representative Name]

[Office Address]

Dear [Senator/Representative Name]:

[Please open with a brief introduction of your CDFI.] I am writing to urge you to support the preservation and robust funding of the Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) Fund in the upcoming fiscal year’s budget and appropriations process. [CDFI Name] is one of more than 1,400 CDFIs that serve low-income and persistent poverty communities across the country. Last year, CDFIs made more than $57 billion in loans and provided critical capital and financial coaching to bolster affordable homeownership, small business growth, and financial well-being in low-income communities. As of Q3 2024, [State] is home to [XX] CDFIs, including [XX] credit unions, [XX] banks or bank holding companies, and [XX] non-depository loan funds. [See CDFI Data by State document to fill in the stats for your state.]

[Add 2-3 brief sentences about your location, the communities you serve, and your impact as a CDFI.]

CDFIs play an important role in ensuring all Americans have access to safe and affordable financial services and responsible loan products to meet their needs and support them in achieving their financial goals. CDFIs have received praise across party lines for their role in revitalizing local economies and have a strong track record of serving as financial first responders during emergencies. [Please add a 2-3 sentence example of how your credit union has supported economic growth or helped your community recover from a disaster. For example:

* Did you participate in PPP, keeping Americans employed by small businesses during the COVID-19 emergency?
* Have you expanded your small business, homeownership, or other asset-building initiatives with support from ECIP or FA Awards?
* Have you supported rebuilding efforts after a disaster, helping members remain in their homes and retain their small businesses?]

With continued grant funding from the CDFI Fund, CDFIs will continue to be able to meet Americans’ pressing financial needs and help build stronger local economies.

Given the clear benefits of CDFI funding for people and communities in our State/district and across the country, we ask that you request appropriations of $354 million for the CDFI Fund and oppose any efforts to cut funding below current levels in the FY 2026 budget. Your support for the Fund would have a profound impact on the future of [State/district] communities and would align squarely with shared values of promoting self-sufficiency and economic empowerment. Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to the opportunity to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

[Your Name, Role, Institution]