

ATTACHMENT A—POSITIONS ON 1966 HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
LEGISLATION*Demonstration cities bill of 1966 (H.R. 12341)* *NAHB positions and recommendations*

Provides financial and technical assistance to city demonstration agencies to plan, develop, and carry out comprehensive city demonstration programs. Grants would cover up to (a) 90 percent of planning costs, (b) 80 percent of administration costs, and (c) 80 percent of the non-Federal share required under existing Federal grant-in-aid programs undertaken in connection with comprehensive programs. A Federal coordinator would be appointed for each city having an approved program; the coordinator would be required to coordinate and expedite all Federal programs utilized as part of the comprehensive program. Over a 6-year period, \$2.3 billion would be authorized.

NAHB supports H.R. 12341. It would provide a much-needed mechanism for coordinating all Federal, State, local, and private activities in order to make a maximum impact on comprehensive physical and social redevelopment of the Nation's cities.

We particularly approve the bill's requirement that HUD give consideration, in approving comprehensive programs, to local actions directed toward utilizing new and improved technology and design and cost reduction techniques. Accordingly, we recommend that section 106 of H.R. 13065, the Housing and Urban Development Act Amendments of 1966, be inserted into the demonstration cities bill and made part of that proposed program. We further recommend that ½ of 1 percent of all funds appropriated under the demonstration cities bill be required to be spent on a HUD research program designed to encourage the application of new techniques, materials, and methods to the homebuilding industry. Such research should be required to be carried on by private nongovernmental agencies. NAHB and other private agencies are already active in homebuilding research.

NAHB also recommends that the Congress clearly delineate the powers and duties of the Federal coordinator to be established by the bill. The coordinator should be empowered to effectively coordinate the often-times conflicting operations of Federal grant-in-aid programs. It may also be desirable to change the name of the Federal coordinator in order to alleviate fears as to his powers and responsibilities.

Urban development bill (H.R. 12946)

Title I. Grants to assist in planned metropolitan development.—This title would authorize supplemental grants (of up to 20 percent of project costs) to State and local public bodies carrying out nine designated federally assisted "development projects." These grants will be made only for "development projects" for which it is demonstrated that (1) metropolitanwide comprehensive planning and programing are being carried on effectively in the area, and (2) adequate metropolitanwide governmental arrangements exist and are being utilized for coordinating public development policies and activities in accordance with comprehensive planning and programing. For these grants, \$25 million would be authorized.

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NAHB supports these supplemental grants. Localities which are effectively carrying on metropolitanwide planning and programing should be afforded greater Federal assistance. The benefits to homebuilding which result from properly planned metropolitanwide public facilities are widely recognized. NAHB's policy with respect to environmental design is in full accord with the objectives of these proposed supplemental grants.