

EXHIBIT D

Position: The City of Cape Coral SUPPORTS legislation to improve municipalities' use of community redevelopment agencies to effectively carry out redevelopment and community revitalization in accordance with Home Rule.

Background: There are 222 active community redevelopment agencies (CRAs) in Florida. They were established to encourage new investment and job creation in urban areas that were blighted as a result of substantial growth moving away from the urban core.

Overall, the comprehensive community redevelopment plans that are created and implemented by CRAs are uniquely designed to address that area's specific needs for revitalization. Creating affordable housing is just one of the many roles that CRAs may play, and it should be part of a balanced economic development strategy. There are a variety of community, state and federal programs with the primary mission of providing affordable housing and CRAs consistently partner with and invest in these programs. The Florida Redevelopment Act, which governs CRAs, is designed to be adaptable to Florida's widely diverse communities.

The tax increment used for financing projects is the difference between the amount of property tax revenue generated before the CRA designation and the amount of property tax revenue generated after the CRA designation. Monies used in financing CRA activities are, therefore, locally generated. CRA redevelopment plans must be consistent with local government comprehensive plans. This makes CRAs a specifically focused financing tool for redevelopment.

This financing system is successful because it provides specific public services without increasing or levying any new taxes. Both residents and business owners favor this system because the taxes they pay on their investment are rewarded with direct benefits from the CRA. Also, unlike a city or county government, a CRA may utilize tax increment financing as a way to leverage these local public funds with private dollars to make redevelopment happen in public/private partnerships. This has been extremely successful throughout the state.

Request: Support legislation to improve municipalities' use of community redevelopment agencies to effectively carry out redevelopment and community revitalization.

**The content of this exhibit was mostly provided by the Florida League of Cities; www.floridaleagueofcities.com/advocacy.*