

**Prepared Testimony of Hillary Rodham Clinton
A U.S. Senator From the State of New York**

2:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 21, 2004

Senator CLINTON. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I am very sorry I was not able to personally attend this hearing to endorse the nomination of Roy Bernardi to Deputy Secretary at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Two years ago I had the pleasure of appearing before this Committee to support his appointment as Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development and I am happy to say that he met my highest expectations.

Roy Bernardi has truly dedicated his career to public service. For the past thirty years he has worked to improve the overall management of the government while ensuring the delivery of much needed services. From his start as elected City Auditor, to his two-terms as Mayor of Syracuse, and his service as the President of the New York State Conference of Mayors, Mr. Bernardi has championed improving the quality of life of New Yorkers. His experiences in New York made him uniquely qualified to serve as the Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development of HUD, where he provided strong leadership and worked to improve the delivery of important HUD services to communities throughout our nation. He has been a strong supporter of providing federal assistance to the many financially-strapped municipalities in our nation that depend on CPD programs, which provide funding for community and economic development, homeless assistance and housing for people with AIDS.

In New York, I have had the pleasure of working closely with Assistant Secretary Bernardi to provide HUD assistance to many of the distressed cities in Upstate New York, to improve communication between Federal, State and Local government on behalf of HUD empowerment zones and renewal communities in our region and to deliver vital HUD funding to help rebuild Lower Manhattan. I admire Roy because he has always brought people together to work on behalf of community-based solutions and has always helped people seek a better life for themselves and their children. One example of his extraordinary leadership that comes to mind is when Assistant Secretary Bernardi went out of his way to convene a special meeting of renewal communities in Upstate New York, in March 2002. He spent the entire day working closely with mayors and local community development officials to help them fully understand the benefits of a federal renewal community program. Over one hundred and fifty people attended this hands-on session and the results have proven to be invaluable.

I am convinced that his experience as Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, coupled with his impressive record as a public servant of Syracuse, has prepared him to serve as Deputy Secretary of HUD. I commend the President for the selection of this nominee and highly recommend him to this Committee, and ask that you act favorably on his nomination.

Thank you.