

Melvin L. Watt, Director Federal Housing Finance Agency Constitution Center 400 7<sup>th</sup> Street, SW Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Mr. Watt,

Seattle, like the nation, faces a serious affordable housing crisis. It is a crisis that is displacing far too many long-time residents from our city. The cost of housing has skyrocketed. Our Mayor has declared a homelessness state of emergency to address the 19 percent increase in residents living outdoors. Seattle cannot address the homelessness crisis alone. Our State of Emergency response requires commitments and support from our federal government partners. We want to work with the federal government on ways in which we can jointly address this crisis.

We have recently learned that some 10,000 Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac loans will be sold nationally over the next month at auction through your "distressed note program." We are concerned that the vast majority of these loans may be purchased by Wall Street investors — typically to hedge funds or private equity firms.

For these reasons, we are joining with other local elected officials and community groups across the country to ask that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac (overseen by the Federal Housing Finance Agency, or FHFA) and HUD help homeowners with principal reduction on their mortgages and stop selling mortgages to Wall Street at a discount.

We appreciate the important role that Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae play in the housing market. We know that your agency must manage many interests. In managing these interests, it is crucial that local and federal governments work together to help communities recover from the devastating housing crash and the reckless and predatory lending that preceded this crisis.

In January 2016, RealtyTrac reported that in the Seattle Metro area the number of home-buyers paying cash rose to more than 31 percent of transactions. These cash-buyers are typically large investors who more often than not don't live in Seattle and don't have the same kind of stake in our city as do local residents and businesses.

The good news is that there is great alternative. There are non-profits that have raised significant capital and are prepared to negotiate the purchase of your severely delinquent mortgages in our city, or the state as a whole. These non-profits have developed programs to offer loan modifications that include principal reduction. When

avoiding foreclosure isn't possible, these non-profits have property disposition plans designed to meet the affordable housing needs of the community. They have a track record of success.

Please work with us to get your severely delinquent mortgages into the hands of mission-driven non-profits. Specifically, we request that your agency:

- 1) Let us know the number of delinquent mortgages that you anticipate selling now, or over the course of 2016, that are in our city and our state as a whole;
- 2) Let us know the number of mortgages that are 1+ years delinquent that you hold in our city and the state as a whole; and
- 3) Meet with us and potential non-profit purchasers with the goal of negotiating the sale of your severely delinquent mortgages to one or more non-profits.

Thank you for you kind consideration. We look forward to taking next steps together towards addressing this issue.

Sincerely yours, Bue d Hanel	_	Sally Baghaw
Council President Bruce A. Harrell		Councilmember Sally Bagshaw
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Councilmember Tim Burgess		Councilment of M. Lorena González
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Councilmember Lisa Herbold		Councilmember Rob Johnson
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Councilmember Debora Juarez		Councilmember Mike O'Brien
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Donald H. Layton, CEO Freddie Mac 8200 Jones Branch Drive McLean, VA 22102-3110

Dear Mr. Layton,

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Councilmember Lisa Herbold

Councilmember Debora Juare

Councilmember Sally Bagshaw

Councilmember M. Locena González

Councilmember Rob Johnson

Councilmember Mike O'Brien



Timothy J. Mayopoulos, President and CEO Fannie Mae 3900 Wisconsin Ave Washington, DC 20016

Dear Mr. Mayopoulos,

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Councilmember Tim Burgess

Councilmember Lisa Herbold

Councilmember Debora Juarez

Councilmember Mike O'Brien



Ed Golding, Commissioner Federal Housing Administration U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 451 7<sup>th</sup> St., SW Washington, D.C. 20410

Dear Mr. Golding,

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Councilmember M. Lorena González

Councilmember Rob Johnson

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Secretary Julián Castro U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 451 7<sup>th</sup> St., SW Washington, D.C. 20410

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