



September 29, 2022

Federal Housing Finance Agency  
400<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20024

To Whom it May Concern:

We appreciate the opportunity to speak at the listening session on September 29, 2022, and to be able to provide written comments in support of and appreciation for the work of the Federal Home Loan Bank (“FHLB”) System and opportunities it provides to community banks.

Through the FHLB, HomeStreet Bank (“HomeStreet”) offers letters of credit to members of the community to support their business or individual needs. Specifically, through the Affordable Housing Program, HomeStreet is able to issue letters of credit to smaller homebuilders, which allows them to build the infrastructure needed to support the building of new homes.

The FHLB’s public fund collateralization program provides HomeStreet with an additional source of funds to support loans for single family and multifamily properties in our communities.

And since joining the FHLB in 1986, HomeStreet has made extensive use of FHLB advances that support its growth, which has allowed HomeStreet to continue to fund single family and multifamily loans during periods where loan demand has outpaced deposit growth. This access to funding and liquidity has been a critical factor in allowing community banks such as HomeStreet to continuously serve and support our communities.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to speak at the listening session on the 29th about the benefits of having the FHLB system available to institutions like HomeStreet. We are proud of and grateful for our 36-year relationship with the FHLB.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark K. Mason", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark K. Mason  
Chairman, President & CEO