



State of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

November 26, 2012

The Honorable Edward J. DeMarco
Acting Director
Federal Housing Finance Agency
400 Seventh Street SW, Ninth Floor
Washington, District of Columbia 20024

Re: FHFA proposal to increase guarantee fees for Connecticut and certain other states

Dear Mr. DeMarco:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input in the public interest on the Federal Housing Finance Agency's proposal to increase the guarantee fees ("g-fees") charged by the Federal National Mortgage Agency ("Fannie Mae") and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation ("Freddie Mac") for mortgages that finance single-family properties with one to four units in Connecticut and four other states, as published in the Federal Register on September 25, 2012.

That proposal does not take into account the upside of Connecticut's landmark judicial foreclosure mediation program, acknowledged throughout the United States as a successful model in leading to sustained homeownership, or of the remedial benefits of the state's Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program (EMAP) and Connecticut Fair Alternative Mortgage Lending Initiative and Education Services Program (CT FAMILIES) to help households facing the burden of foreclosure from subprime mortgage indebtedness and other financial hardship beyond their control meet their monthly mortgage obligations.

We hasten to add that Connecticut is successfully addressing the problems brought on by the national foreclosure crisis that put many families at risk. Rather than punishing Connecticut borrowers for successful state programs to bring lenders and homeowners together to help families avoid foreclosure and remain in their homes, the FHFA should recognize the value of Connecticut's successful alternatives to foreclosure and not penalize Connecticut for doing the right thing.

As members of the Connecticut General Assembly, we oppose any efforts to impose a penalty on Connecticut, which has been a leader nationwide in adopting critical and enormously successful foreclosure-related protections to help homeowners who are in foreclosure proceedings stay in their homes; and we support withdrawal of the proposal as recommended by Connecticut's entire Congressional delegation in their letter to you of November 13, 2012. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Elissa T. Wright
State Representative, 41st Assembly District

Andrew M. Maynard
State Senator, 18th Senate District