

From: Karen Feridun <feridun@ix.netcom.com>  
Sent: Sunday, March 25, 2012 12:51 AM  
To: !FHFA REG-COMMENTS  
Subject: RIN 2590-AA53, Mortgage Assets Affected by PACE Programs

Dear Sir/Madam,

We have gone well past the point where we can take any action to discourage, inhibit, or otherwise impede the development and implementation of renewable energy sources. I am on the board of directors of the Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy Association, so this issue is close to my heart. I am also founder of Berks Gas Truth, a grassroots organization that is fighting against unconventional natural gas drilling. There are many reasons to oppose drilling. Methane is more efficient at heating the atmosphere than carbon dioxide, so it is beyond irresponsible for us to be turning to this energy source whose production pumps methane into the air as an unavoidable consequence. To make matters worse, I am deeply concerned when I hear public officials including the President of the United States and his EPA Administrator parrot industry talking points. I don't believe they are motivated purely by financial gains that may result. I believe that they are hiding behind natural gas, clean coal, and tar sands as an excuse to avoid getting serious about renewable energy solutions. It is astonishing how our elected and appointed officials lack the political will to develop a true energy policy that isn't just a corporate business plan. Gas drilling advocates challenge me to stop using natural gas. My answer is that I would love to get off of all fossil fuels, but I can't afford to. That's why programs like PACE are so important. I've included the talking points that you're surely receiving in every other comment, but I'm doing it because you really should read them carefully. I personally take exception with the last talking point that suggests that reducing our dependence on fossil fuels is a priority of the Federal government's. That doesn't mean it shouldn't be your priority.

- FHFA should rescind its opposition to PACE programs that are necessary tools for communities to pursue more sustainable energy use and generation.
- PACE programs help us reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, promote clean air, and lower our utility costs over time. Energy efficiency and rooftop solar installations also improve property values.
- PACE programs are also in the public's interest because energy efficiency and distributed generation are cheaper than building expensive new power plants and transmission lines that require the destruction of natural resources and cherished wildlands.
- Municipalities have a well-established history of using special assessments similar to PACE to finance community benefits, including improvements to personal property. FHFA has not challenged these other special assessment programs, nor does it have authority to do so.
- A pilot PACE program in Colorado generated over one hundred jobs and nearly \$20 million dollars in economic activity and over one hundred jobs in just one year, according to the Department of Energy.
- Generating local clean energy, boosting our economy, and reducing our dependence on fossil fuels is not just in the interest of municipalities. These are also priorities for our Federal government, and the FHFA's decision to challenge PACE is inconsistent with these priorities.

Sincerely,  
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**Berks Gas Truth Earth Day Events:**

April 18th, Gasland Screenings/Discussions, RACC's Miller Center, 2 p.m and 7 p.m.

April 19th, BGT Exhibit at KU Earth Day, Rohrbach Library Lawn, 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

April 21st, BGT Exhibit and Talk at Berks County Earth Day, Riverfront Park, 11:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.

April 25th, Gasland Screening/Discussion, Albright College's Klein Lecture Hall, 6 p.m.

Visit [www.gastruth.org](http://www.gastruth.org) for more about Berks Gas Truth