

# The Connecticut Coalition of Taft-Hartley Health Funds, Inc.

Making Quality Health Care Affordable

September 7, 2010

Edward J. DeMarco  
Acting Director  
Federal Housing Finance Agency  
1700 G Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20522-0003

Alfred M. Pollard  
General Counsel  
Attn: Comments/RIN 2590-AA23  
Federal Housing Finance Agency  
Fourth Floor  
1700 G. Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20552

RE: Proposed Regulation RIN 2590-AA23

Dear Director DeMarco and Mr. Pollard:

I write to express our serious concerns regarding the recently published proposed regulation of the Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) regarding the conservatorship and receivership of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.<sup>1</sup> The Proposed Rule would have potentially serious consequences for the fifteen member health funds of the CT Coalition of Taft-Hartley Health Funds (Coalition) and the approximately 100,000 Connecticut residents that they serve.

The Proposed Rule would thwart the ability of millions of pensioners throughout the United States from prosecuting their currently pending securities fraud claims against Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac through resolution in a court of law. The proposed rule would effectively insulate Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac from accountability for their past alleged fraudulent acts by relegating securities claims, even those based on fraud, to the lowest priority in receivership. Further, the Proposed Rule would prohibit, except where permitted by the Director of FHFA, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac from paying securities litigation claims while they are in conservatorship. We find this result to be untenable.

<sup>1</sup> RIN 2590-AA23, Conservatorship and Receivership, 75 Fed. Reg. 39462 (July 9, 2010).

Robert F. Tessier, Executive Director

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## Member Health Funds

Bricklayers Local 1 CT

Connecticut Carpenters

Connecticut Pipe Trades

Electrical Workers Local 35

Electrical Workers Local 90

Hear & Frost Insulators &  
Asbestos Workers Local 33 CT

Iron Workers Local 15 & 424

NE Health Care Employees  
District 1199, SEIU

Operating Engineers  
Local 478

Painters & Allied Trades  
District Council 11

Plumbers & Steamfitters  
Local 131

Roofers Local 9

Roofers Local 12

Sheet Metal Workers  
Local 40

Southern CT IBEW



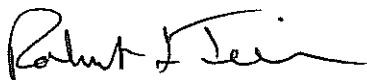
As you know, pension and health funds across the country that invested in Fannie Mae securities have a pending securities fraud class action against Fannie Mae and certain of its former senior officers. Participants in these pension and health funds include millions of active and retired fire fighters, police officers, teachers, health care providers, transportation workers, and other public service employees. The fraudulent acts alleged in the lawsuit occurred from 2001 through 2004, long before FHFA placed Fannie Mae into conservatorship. Indeed, FHFA

(through its predecessor OFHEO) published two comprehensive reports of its investigation of Fannie Mae, detailing the egregious misconduct of the former senior officers of Fannie Mae during that period, and ultimately entered into settlement agreements with Fannie Mae and certain senior officers pursuant to which Fannie Mae and those senior officers paid civil money penalties to FHFA. Thus, we find it difficult to understand why FHFA would knowingly propose a rule that could leave millions of aggrieved teachers, police officers and fire fighters throughout the 50 states without similar redress for the harm visited upon them by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac – the very entities that the Proposed Rule seeks to protect.

The plaintiffs' ability to pursue their pending securities fraud claims must be protected and we are deeply troubled by the fact that protecting corporate fraud appears to be a higher priority to the FHFA than ensuring that millions of aggrieved pensioners have their day in court. I call upon you to ensure that this does not happen.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Robert F. Tessier  
Executive Director  
CT Coalition of Taft-Hartley Health Funds

Cc: Connecticut Congressional Delegation