

February 6, 2012

The Honorable Judy Biggert
Chair, House Financial Services
Subcommittee on Insurance, Housing, and
Community Opportunity
2113 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Luis Gutierrez
Ranking Member, House Financial Services
Subcommittee on Insurance, Housing, and
Community Opportunity
2266 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Biggert and Ranking Member Gutierrez:

The strength and future viability of the FHA mortgage insurance program is of critical importance to American families, the housing industry, and our nation's economic recovery. The undersigned organizations, representing the housing industry, support the "FHA Emergency Fiscal Solvency Act of 2012." This bill will provide FHA with the tools it needs to better manage its financial risk.

Over the last several years, FHA has taken a number of steps to safeguard the continued financial viability of the fund, while guaranteeing its availability to consumers as a source of affordable, safe mortgage financing. This legislation will provide FHA with additional tools to protect the fund, without disenfranchising responsible homebuyers.

Hard times call for hard choices, and while we may not desire all of the changes in the bill, we agree they are necessary to ensure FHA remains an option for homebuyers today and into the future. However, we would strongly oppose any amendments that would further increase the costs of financing for homeowners.

We thank you for considering this legislation and urge your support.

Sincerely,

Mortgage Bankers Association

National Association of Home Builders

National Association of REALTORS®

cc: Members, House Financial Services Subcommittee on Insurance, Housing, and Community Opportunity