

January 9, 2009

To: Members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives

Re: Agreement on Changes to the Treatment of Mortgages During Bankruptcy

We are not participants in the recent agreement between Citigroup and Congressional proponents of mortgage cram-down legislation and are opposed to the agreement.

The agreement would give bankruptcy judges broad authority to modify unilaterally the terms of mortgages. It would bring additional risk and uncertainty to an already volatile mortgage market and would make home loans more expensive and less available for consumers.

Several important issues still must be addressed and we look forward to working with Congress and the Administration as discussions continue.

Sincerely,

American Bankers Association
American Financial Services Association
Independent Community Bankers of America
Mortgage Bankers Association
Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association
The Financial Services Roundtable
The Housing Policy Council
U.S. Chamber of Commerce