



June 18, 2009

The Honorable Timothy F. Geithner
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20220

The Honorable Lawrence H. Summers
Director of the National Economic Council
and Assistant to the President for Economic Policy
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Secretary Geithner and Dr. Summers:

The Mortgage Bankers Association appreciates the thoughtful and comprehensive financial regulatory reform plan you presented to Congress and the American people yesterday. Our 2,400 member companies welcome the debate over the future regulation of the financial services industry, and we very much look forward to working with the administration and Congress on this important issue.

Oversight of financial firms can and should be improved in order to better protect consumers and ensure recent troubles in the financial sector are not repeated. We agree with the administration that a better regulatory structure is needed for the mortgage industry. As you know, earlier this year we asked Congress to consider the Mortgage Improvement and Regulation Act (MIRA) that would, among other things, create a new federal regulator for independent mortgage banks and mortgage brokers. We noted there is a great deal of agreement between our MIRA proposal and the plan you released yesterday, and we are excited for the opportunity to work together on those reforms.

As we seek to better protect and inform borrowers, however, we cannot ignore one of the most significant differences in approach between our proposal and the administration's plan. MBA is seeking a single, tough, national consumer protection standard for mortgage originators to replace the current uneven and inefficient patchwork of state and local laws. While we agree that state governments should be partners in enforcing and updating such a standard, we think consumers would be much better served by a single set of strong but dynamic rules for mortgage bankers and brokers to follow regardless of where their company is licensed or their borrower resides. Anything short of federal preemption risks perpetuating one of the problems of

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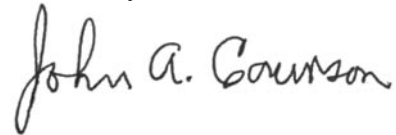
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today's regulatory structure for mortgages and would seem to be inconsistent with key objectives of the administration's plan.

We will continue to examine the details of the administration's plan and resulting legislation and will offer our insights into how the different pieces will impact the industry and American homeowners. We look forward to working with you throughout the process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John A. Courson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

John A. Courson

President and Chief Executive Officer