March 17, 2020

The Honorable Mark Calabria  
Director  
Federal Housing Finance Agency  
400 7th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20024

The Honorable Robert Wilkie  
Secretary  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20420

The Honorable Ben Carson  
Secretary  
Department of Housing and Urban Development  
451 7th SW  
Washington, DC 20410

The Honorable Sonny Perdue  
Secretary  
Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave SW  
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Director Calabria, Secretary Carson, Secretary Wilkie, and Secretary Perdue:

We write to request that your agencies institute an immediate, nationwide moratorium on all foreclosures of, and evictions from, properties owned, insured, or overseen by Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Department of Veterans Affairs, or the United States Department of Agriculture’s Rural Housing Service in light of the developing Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This is a national emergency, and many occupants of federally-assisted housing will not be able to afford rent or mortgage payments through no fault of their own, as a direct result of emergency limitations put in place to safeguard public health.

This request is not without precedent; moratoriums of this nature have been imposed in the past when our nation has faced our darkest days. For example, after Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico in 2017, HUD, Fannie Mae, and Freddie Mac instituted a temporary foreclosure moratorium for affected homeowners in Puerto Rico.

Much like a natural disaster, COVID-19 has already caused untold health, social, and economic damage in the United States and across the globe. During this time of uncertainty, it is imperative that your agencies impose a temporary moratorium on foreclosures and evictions to protect the countless Americans who have been, or soon will be, impacted by this evolving public health crisis.

As the number of infected individuals and the number of broken supply chains rises, we must take proactive steps to protect the millions of working-class families, low-income households,
and minority communities who will be disproportionately affected as increasingly aggressive quarantine measures develop and are implemented on the local, state, and federal levels.

As you know, President Trump has now declared a national emergency under the Stafford Act. Accordingly, and consistent with this declaration, we urge all of you to immediately take steps to halt all foreclosures and evictions — whether new or pending — in order to protect millions of Americans during this crisis.

Sincerely,

CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress

JIMMY GOMEZ
Member of Congress

PETER A. DEFAZIO
Member of Congress

CHERI BUSTOS
Member of Congress

BILL FOSTER
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JUAN VARGAS
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JERROLD NADLER
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STEVE COHEN
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Member of Congress

TOM SUOZZI
Member of Congress

MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress

BRENDA L. LAWRENCE
Member of Congress

BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress

SUSAN WILD
Member of Congress

JAMIE RASKIN
Member of Congress

DENNY HECK
Member of Congress

DAVID TRONE
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Member of Congress

JOSÉ E. SERRANO
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JIM LANGEVIN
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JOE NEGUSE
Member of Congress

WM. LACY CLAY
Member of Congress

YVETTE D. CLARKE
Member of Congress

TULSI GABBARD
Member of Congress

ALAN LOWENTHAL
Member of Congress

JENNIFER WEBXTON
Member of Congress

RASHIDA TLAIB
Member of Congress
This letter is sent on behalf of the following signatories:

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