



July 26, 2012

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader, United States Senate  
S-221, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader, United States Senate  
S-230, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leaders Reid and McConnell:

The members of the Mortgage Bankers Association, the National Association of Home Builders, and the National Association of Realtors wish to offer our continued support of the nomination of Carol Galante to be Assistant Secretary for Housing and Federal Housing Administration (FHA) Commissioner at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

FHA continues to play a critical role as the overall housing market struggles toward recovery. FHA is especially vital to homebuyers who may need a little "extra help" securing safe, decent, and affordable housing, focusing more on the needs of first-time, minority, and low- and moderate-income borrowers than any other national program. At present, approximately 77 percent of FHA-insured home purchase loans are made to first-time homebuyers, and 31 percent of these first-time homebuyers are minorities.

FHA has also played an important role in the financing of multifamily rental housing, which has enabled the construction and rehabilitation of needed affordable rental units, as private market sources of capital have not been available. Since FY2008, FHA's commitments in multifamily loans grew from \$2 billion to \$13 billion in FY2011. Because of its essential role in the current housing marketplace, FHA must have a seasoned leader to direct its mission at this crucial time in all geographic areas of the country.

Carol Galante will bring tremendous expertise and a deep commitment to strengthening FHA's program areas to the post of Commissioner. Her decades of work in affordable housing development and more recently, managing FHA's multifamily programs, give her a unique perspective on the issues facing our nation's housing and mortgage markets. This experience and practical understanding will serve her well in this new position.

Our organizations are eager to continue working with Ms. Galante in this capacity when she is confirmed, and we are pleased that the Senate reached an agreement to consider her nomination next week. We hope that the full Senate will approve her nomination when it comes to a vote. Thank you in advance for your consideration of these views.

Sincerely,

Mortgage Bankers Association  
National Association of Home Builders  
National Association of Realtors

cc : Senator Tim Johnson, Chairman, Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
Senator Richard Shelby, Ranking Member, Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs