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500 New Jersey Ave., NW Washington, DC 20001-2020 Ph. 202-383-1194 www.NAR.real.tor November 27, 2017

The Honorable Michael Crapo Chairman Senate Committee on Banking, Housing & Urban Affairs 239 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sherrod Brown Ranking Member Senate Committee on Banking, Housing & Urban Affairs 713 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Crapo and Ranking Member Brown:

The 1.2 million members of the National Association of REALTORS® enthusiastically support the nomination of Brian D. Montgomery as the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Assistant Secretary for Housing-Federal Housing Administration (FHA) Commissioner. NAR worked with closely with Mr. Montgomery during his previous tenure at HUD and we have full confidence in his abilities to lead and manage the FHA.

Mr. Montgomery served as FHA Commissioner from 2005 to mid-2009, under both the George W. Bush and Obama Administrations. During that period, he realized the immense counter-cyclical benefits that FHA can provide in the middle of the housing crisis. He also led HUD's response to Hurricane Katrina and chaired the Hurricane Recovery and Response Center at HUD headquarters. This experience will be very helpful in the aftermath of the recent disasters in Houston, Florida, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Prior to his national service, Mr. Montgomery served at the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, giving him experience with HUD programs at the local level.

NAR strongly supports the nomination of Brian D. Montgomery, and urge you to pass his vote out of the Committee, and to the Senate floor with haste.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth J. Mendenhale

Elizabeth Mendenhall 2018 President, National Association of REALTORS®

cc: Senate Committee on Banking, Housing & Urban Affairs

