

July 14, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Democratic Leader  
United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Republican Leader  
United States Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Sherrod Brown  
Chairman  
Senate Banking Committee  
United States Senate  
503 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 25010

The Honorable Pat Toomey  
Ranking Republican  
Senate Banking and Housing Committee  
United States Senate  
248 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 25010

Dear Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Chairman Brown and Ranking Member Toomey:

We are writing in support of the nomination of Julia Gordon for Assistant Secretary for Housing and Federal Housing Administration (FHA) Commissioner. As members of the Board of Governors of the National Housing Conference, we are engaged in every sector of the housing industry from housing construction, sales and lending to advocacy on behalf of the homeless and affordable housing. We are strongly supportive of the nomination of Ms. Gordon and hope that the Senate will confirm her to this critical position.

Founded in 1931, the National Housing Conference is America's oldest and broadest housing coalition. We represent a diverse coalition of housing stakeholders, including financial institutions, advocacy organizations, state housing finance agencies, and community nonprofits. We believe that everyone should be able to live in a quality, affordable home in a thriving community.

As you know, the FHA Commissioner manages the program that touches more lives than any other program at HUD. Today, FHA insures over \$1.3 trillion of risk on more than 8 million single family mortgages, almost 12,000 mortgages for multifamily properties, and over 3,700 residential care facilities mortgages.

As mortgage forbearance programs put in place during the pandemic begin to wind down, and hundreds of thousands of Americans find they can no longer afford their homes due to prolonged job loss, FHA will play a critical role in determining the future of thousands of neighborhoods in hundreds of cities as they struggle with foreclosures that cannot be avoided. The person who is appointed to be the FHA Commissioner must have a deep understanding of how FHA risk is managed, losses mitigated, foreclosures prevented, and ultimately, how properties are resold in a way that protects the neighborhoods most impacted. This has been the specific focus of Ms. Gordon's work for much of her career.

Ms. Gordon has both the technical knowledge and relationship skills needed to manage this trillion dollar business. Her leadership of the National Community Stabilization Trust where she manages the impact of REO properties on vulnerable neighborhoods, and her experience overhauling GSE servicing policy when she worked at the Federal Housing Finance Agency after the financial crisis, equip her with the practical experience necessary to successfully lead the FHA.

The FHA Commissioner must also have the ability to work with diverse stakeholders in the public and private sectors, ensuring that different viewpoints are heard and considered. Ms. Gordon has outstanding relationships

with consumer, housing and community advocates as well as industry leaders throughout the country, facilitating consultation and consensus building among FHA's many stakeholders.

We respectfully request that you support her confirmation.

Sincerely,

David M. Dworkin  
President and CEO  
National Housing Conference

Anne Segrest McCulloch  
Chair, National Housing Conference  
Housing Partnership Equity Trust

Steve O'Connor  
Vice Chair, National Housing Conference  
Mortgage Bankers Association

Angie Lathrop  
Treasurer, National Housing Conference  
Bank of America

Ralph M. Perrey  
Secretary, National Housing Conference  
Tennessee Housing Development Agency

David Adame  
Chicanos Por La Causa

Laurel Blatchford  
Blue Meridian Partners

Duane Duncan  
Enact MI

Priya Jayachandran  
National Housing Trust

Matthew Josephs  
Local Initiatives Support Corporation

Sydelle Knepper  
SKA Marin

Linda Mandolini  
Eden Housing

Michael Novogradac  
Novogradac & Company LLP

John O'Callaghan  
Atlanta Neighborhood Development Partnership

Steve PonTell  
National Community Renaissance

Alazne Solis  
S3 Advisory Services

Joseph Ventrone  
National Association of REALTORS®

Mark A. Willis  
Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy

cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs