

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