

*Feb. 28, 2012*

*Washington, D.C.* – Today, Ed DeMarco, Acting Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA), showed once again that he is out of touch with the families and communities plagued by the housing crisis. FHFA is the agency that regulates Government-Sponsored Entities (GSEs)—most notably Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, which guarantee 60% of the mortgages in America. In testimony before the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, DeMarco stated that he would not consider allowing homeowners with mortgages secured by GSEs to have access to principal reductions, despite promises to the contrary.

Furthermore, DeMarco is making these decisions with little or no experience with homeowners and communities affected by the foreclosure process. Up until today, DeMarco has publicly stated that he had, in fact, never even met a homeowner who had undergone a foreclosure. In today's testimony, he confessed to a very limited experience with communities affected by the housing crisis.

“In our San Joaquin and East Contra Costa Counties, we know all too well the devastating effects the housing crisis continues to have in Northern California. We have seen our neighbors and friends uprooted from their homes and witnessed the despair and hopelessness that permeates an entire community as ‘for sale’ sign after ‘for sale’ sign pops up on lawn after lawn.

“For the sake of our region, Mr. DeMarco needs to be aware of how this continuing crisis is hurting so many real people. He needs to take steps to address the foreclosure crisis; only then will we truly be able to get our economy back on track.

“Acting Director DeMarco is making decisions that have a deep impact on underwater homeowners and entire communities. To make these decisions with no firsthand understanding of what they mean for a family at risk of foreclosure is unacceptable. He should walk the streets that we walk every day and look a homeowner in the eye who is desperately seeking a responsible path to stay in his or her home, only to be stymied at every turn.

“Mr. DeMarco must understand the consequences of his actions, so I will be talking to him every

chance I get, and will be writing a letter to tell him the stories I have heard and encouraging other public officials to do the same. I urge homeowners in our region who have been affected by the housing crisis to write a letter describing the frustrating processes to Mr. DeMarco and the Obama Administration, and I will personally make sure they are delivered to him. He needs to realize how his inaction is affecting San Joaquin and East Contra Costa Counties, and direct input from people impacted by foreclosure is one way to help him understand. Principal reductions are needed to keep folks in their homes.”

Letters can be delivered to any of Congressman McNerney’s offices, faxed to (202) 225-4060, or submitted via Congressman McNerney’s website at [www.McNerney.house.gov](http://www.McNerney.house.gov) . You can also reach Congressman McNerney at any of the offices listed below:

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