



WASHINGTON BUREAU · NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
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URGENT ACTION ALERT

DATE: October 30, 2013
TO: Concerned Parties
FROM: Hilary O. Shelton, Director, NAACP Washington Bureau

VOTE MAY OCCUR AS EARLY AS THE END OF OCTOBER!!!!

Support The Nomination of Mel Watt to Serve as The Director of The Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA)

***NORTH CAROLINA CONGRESSMAN BRINGS OVER 40 YEARS OF FINANCIAL SERVICES AND
HOUSING EXPERIENCE TO THE POSITION***

THE ISSUE:

On May 1, 2013, President Obama nominated Congressman Melvin “Mel” Watt (NC) to serve as Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA). The FHFA is a hugely important federal regulatory entity which oversees nearly 80% of mortgages in the U.S. today. Specifically, the FHFA supervises America’s secondary mortgage markets, including Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, the Federal Home Loan Banks, and 14 housing-related GSEs. Mel Watts’ confirmation is essential to finally getting housing mortgages out of crisis, to getting real help to homeowners facing foreclosure, and to assisting qualified buyers to get into sustainable mortgages they can afford.

Congressman Watt is no stranger to housing, financial services, or to the issues facing racial and ethnic minorities and other Americans. Congressman Watt, who has served admirably on the House Financial Services Committee since 1993, and who chaired the Congressional Black Caucus in 2005 – 2006, has been a fierce advocate for struggling homeowners, has the depth to grasp the problems that plague Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac while working to stop predatory lenders, and has the skills to work with everyone involved to get the housing sector back on track.

Congressman Watt was one of the first Members of Congress to speak out against the predatory mortgage lending practices that characterized the boom in subprime lending, one that eventually contributed to widespread economic devastation. He has also consistently pointed out the disparate impact which the targeted predatory lending has had on racial and ethnic minorities and on our communities. He led the push for legislation that would have required safety, soundness, and fairness to prevail over the reckless rush for short-term profits and greed.

Congressman Watt has a long history of standing up for working families, promoting safe and affordable housing, speaking out against predatory lending, and advocating for keeping homeowners in their homes. All of these are vital to ending the continuing housing crisis, to ensuring the recovery of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, to offering real help to homeowners facing foreclosure, and to helping qualified homeowners take out sustainable, affordable mortgages.

More...

THE ACTION WE NEED YOU TO TAKE:

Contact both your Senators and **URGE THEM TO SUPPORT THE NOMINATION OF MEL WATT TO SERVE AS DIRECTOR OF THE FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY.** To contact your Senators, you may:

✓ **Make a Phone Call:**

Call your Senators in Washington by dialing the Capitol Switchboard and asking to be transferred to your Senators' offices. The switchboard phone number is **(202) 224-3121** (see message section, below).

✓ **Write a Letter**

To write letters to your Senators, send them to:
The Honorable (name of Senator)
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

**A SAMPLE
LETTER IS
ATTACHED**

Send a Fax

If you would like to send a fax, call your Senators' offices (through the Capitol switchboard) and ask for their fax numbers (you can use either the attached sample letter or the message box, below).

✓ **Send an E-Mail**

To send an e-mail to your Senators, go to www.senate.gov; click on "*Find Your Senators*". Look up your Senators by state or name; go to their web sites for e-mail addresses.

REMEMBER TO CONTACT BOTH YOUR SENATORS!!!!

THE MESSAGE

- Mel Watt is eminently qualified to lead the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA). He has served on the House Financial Services Committee for 20 years, during which time he has been a fierce advocate for aspiring homebuyers and struggling homeowners. Congressman Watt was one of the first Members of Congress to speak out against the predatory mortgage lending practices that characterized the boom in subprime lending, one that eventually contributed to widespread economic devastation.
- Mel Watt has the depth to grasp the problems that plague Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and has the skills to work with everyone involved to get the housing sector back on track.
- Congressman Watt has a long history of standing up for working families, promoting safe and affordable housing, speaking out against predatory lending, and advocating for keeping American homeowners in their homes.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS IMPORTANT MATTER!!!

If you have any questions, call Hilary Shelton at the Washington Bureau at (202) 463-2940.

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Sample

(date)

The Honorable _____
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

**RE: CONFIRM MEL WATT AS DIRECTOR OF THE FEDERAL
HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY (FHFA)**

Dear Senator _____;

As your constituent, I strongly urge you to confirm Congressman Mel Watt to serve as Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) as soon as possible. Congressman Watt is eminently qualified to lead the FHFA. He has served on the House Financial Services Committee for 20 years, during which time he has been a fierce advocate for aspiring homebuyers and struggling homeowners. Congressman Watt was one of the first Members of Congress to speak out against the predatory mortgage lending practices that characterized the boom in subprime lending, one that eventually contributed to widespread economic devastation. He has the depth to grasp the problems that plague Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and has the skills to work with everyone involved to get the housing sector back on track. Congressman Watt has a long history of standing up for working families, promoting safe and affordable housing, speaking out against predatory lending, and advocating for keeping homeowners in their homes.

The FHFA is a hugely important federal regulatory entity which oversees nearly 80% of mortgages in the U.S. today. Specifically, the FHFA supervises America's secondary mortgage markets, including Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, the Federal Home Loan Banks, and 14 housing-related GSEs. Mel Watts' confirmation is essential to finally getting housing out of crisis, to getting real help to homeowners facing foreclosure, and to assisting qualified buyers to get into sustainable mortgages they can afford.

Again, I urge you in the strongest terms possible to confirm Congressman Mel Watt to serve a Director of the FHFA as soon as possible. The sooner he is confirmed, the sooner homeowners facing foreclosure and potential homeowners will see some real help from the federal government. Thank you for your attention to my concerns; I look forward to working with you to see this vital nomination become a reality, and I hope that you will contact me in the near future to let me know what I can do to help.

Sincerely,

(sign and print your name and
remember to include your address)

***Remember to contact
BOTH your Senators.***

