



MORTGAGE BANKERS ASSOCIATION

January 28, 2021

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Banking,
Housing, and Urban Affairs
534 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Toomey
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Banking,
Housing, and Urban Affairs
534 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Brown and Ranking Member Toomey:

On behalf of the Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA), I write to support the nomination of the Honorable Marcia Fudge to serve as the next Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Since holding her first elected position as the mayor of Warrensville Heights, Ohio, and throughout her representation of Ohio's 11th congressional district, Congresswoman Fudge has consistently supported the development of affordable housing. This experience will serve her well as HUD's highest ranking official.

Throughout her career of over three decades in public service, Congresswoman Fudge has demonstrated the expertise to address the complex set of housing challenges our country faces. As a former Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, she knows how to build coalitions to advance the shared goals of economic inclusion and boosting minority homeownership. I believe she will put those talents to good use, helping strengthen America's housing market, promoting the production of affordable rental housing, improving the fabric of communities nationwide, and addressing the needs of those in our country still living "on the outskirts of hope."

Once confirmed, she will be responsible for addressing the urgent need for ongoing housing assistance during the COVID-19 emergency for both homeowners and renters. This includes providing Federal Housing Administration (FHA) lenders temporary flexibilities to verification requirements and allowing borrowers to request mortgage forbearance due to a COVID-19 hardship, including during the period between closing and endorsement for FHA insurance. I am confident that she will continue to bring a deep commitment and focus to HUD's programmatic areas most in demand of her time and attention, including an adequate level of housing counseling resources and the need to continue upgrading the FHA's antiquated information technology systems, as well as support for public-private partnerships such as FHA's collaboration with MBA on multifamily underwriting training.

I respectfully urge this committee and, in turn, the full Senate to approve Congresswoman Fudge's nomination as swiftly as possible. MBA looks forward to working with her in this new role. Thank you in advance for your consideration of these views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Broeksmit", written in a cursive style.

Robert D. Broeksmit, CMB
President and Chief Executive Officer

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