

March 10, 2016

The Honorable Michael Enzi  
Chairman  
Committee on Budget  
U.S. Senate  
624 Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bernie Sanders  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Budget  
U.S. Senate  
624 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Enzi and Ranking Member Sanders:

The undersigned organizations urge the Senate Budget Committee to include a provision in the Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Resolution that would prohibit the use of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac guarantee fees (“g-fees”) as a funding offset. Such a provision was included by both the House and Senate in last year’s Budget Resolution and was instrumental in preventing Congress from taxing homeowners to pay for unrelated spending.

Our organizations were deeply troubled when g-fees were raised by 10 basis points for 10 years to fund a two-month extension of payroll tax relief back in 2011. That increase harmed homebuyers and consumers – and continues to do so during the duration of the provision’s 10-year lifespan. Since then, whenever Congress has considered using g-fees to cover the cost of programs unrelated to housing, our organizations have united to emphatically let lawmakers know homeownership cannot, and must not, be used as the nation’s piggybank. Yet the threat remains very real – in fact, just last year, the Senate attempted to use these fees to replenish the Highway Trust Fund.

By preventing g-fees to be used as a funding offset, this budget point of order gives lawmakers a vital tool to prevent homeowners from footing the bill for unrelated spending. We urge you to once again include it in this year’s Budget Resolution.

**Sincerely,**

**American Bankers Association  
American Land Title Association  
Community Home Lenders Association  
Community Mortgage Lenders of America  
Consumer Mortgage Coalition  
Credit Union National Association  
Habitat for Humanity International  
Independent Community Bankers of America  
Leading Builders of America  
Mortgage Bankers Association  
National Association of Federal Credit Unions  
National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals  
National Association of Home Builders  
National Association of Mortgage Brokers  
National Association of REALTORS®  
The Realty Alliance  
U.S. Mortgage Insurers**