

December 10, 2009

Secretary Shaun Donovan
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Secretary Donovan:

The undersigned organizations and individuals respectfully encourage you to not cut off funding for the Acorn Housing Corporation (AHC), an organization that provides services to thousands of needy individuals and families, prior to a thorough inquiry into allegations of wrongdoing.

AHC provides assistance to thousands of families and individuals in need. AHC provides homeownership education and counseling, access to finance, foreclosure prevention counseling and housing development to low- and moderate-income and minority families and individuals. In the last year, AHC assisted over 41,000 people with foreclosure prevention counseling, and it is currently working with over 21,000 clients who are at risk of losing their homes if AHC ceases operations. Since 1986, AHC has counseled over 350,000 people on how to buy a first home and has secured more than 100,000 new mortgages for its clients.

Although recent events made clear that AHC's actions warrant a comprehensive review, preemptively cutting off funding for AHC would be contrary to the basic principles of fairness on which government ought to operate and would harm the thousands of individuals who rely on its services. In addition, larger questions remain about the constitutionality of legislation targeting ACORN. The Congressional Research Service confirmed that the language passed in the P.L. 111-68 may well constitute a bill of attainder.

We agree that you should begin a thorough and impartial review into AHC. But, until you determine what, if any, wrongdoing took place, decisions about AHC funding should be off the table.

We look forward to receiving your prompt response.

Sincerely,

Acorn Housing Corporation
Advancement Project
Advantage Home Inspection
Alma Rodriguez Farmers Insurance Group
Alim Management & Production
Anayas Auto Repair
Americans for Democratic Action

Amerimax Real Estate Partners
Alliance for Justice
Campaign for America's Future
Center for Constitutional Rights
City View
Equal Justice Society
National Center for Lesbian Rights

National Low Income Housing Coalition
USAction
Virginia Organizing Project
AP Mortgage
Baker Concrete
Big Valley Mortgage
Clark Realty Group
Camco Real Estate
Century 21 M&M
Chicago Rehab Network
Citibank
Community Lending Solutions, LLC
Consumer Action
Cornell University Department of City
and Regional Planning
City Elite Realty Services
First Congressional Church of Minnesota,
UCC
Gans Studio
Genesis Housing Development Corporation
Golden State Promotional
HBC Services, Inc.
Home Buyer Counseling Services
HomeFree USA
Housing Group Fund, LLC
Housing Services Unlimited
Opportunity Financial
Janovsky and Associates
Alvarez Porter Group
Law offices of David C. Nelson, Ltd
Leadership Conference on Civil Rights
Magdalena M. Golden Realtor
Metropolitan State University
Monica Reyes-Aguilar Lending
National Association for the Advancement
of Colored People
National Association of Consumer
Advocates
National Congress of Black Women, Inc.
National Consumer Law Center
National Fair Housing Alliance
National Housing Institute
National Organization for Women
Omni San Francisco Hotel
Pratt Graduate Center for Planning and the
Environment

Ponce Realty and Investments
Preferred Housing Consultants
Re/Max Galleria Associates
Realty Associates
Real Estate Professional, Inc.
Robert Half
Rushford & Bonotto, LLP
Serrato Law, Ltd.
Sueno Realty Group
Slack Associates
Su Inversion Real Estate
The Longfellow Community Council
Third Unitarian Church
Tree Trust
Umpqua Bank
Unita
University of Maryland College Park, School of
Public Health
Washington County Housing and Redevelopment
Authority
Women Venture
Woodlawn East Community and Neighbors
University of California at Berkeley