

Opening Statement

Congressman Paul E. Gillmor (R-OH)

Committee on Financial Services

Hearing entitled: "Legislative Proposals on GSE Reform"

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for calling this important hearing today. I am encouraged by the Committee's work over the past several years to address the regulation of the housing GSEs. I believe that there are still several outstanding issues to be addressed before we move this legislation to the floor, but I am encouraged that the base text of H.R. 1427 contains strong regulation as well as my language dealing with charitable contributions.

This language would authorize the Federal Housing Finance Agency to require that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac make publicly available, each year, the total value of contributions made to non-profit organizations during the previous fiscal year. It would also request specific disclosures on donations to insider-affiliated charities.

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac were established by congressional charter and given special privileges to provide a service to the American people by creating a secondary mortgage market and increasing liquidity. Given their unique status, it is both their shareholders' and the American public's right to know how their profits are being spent. It is my hope that this type of disclosure is extended to all public companies and to that end, I have introduced H.R. 1208.

I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to craft the best GSE reform legislation possible and I yield back the balance of my time.

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