Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 21, 2012

Governor Nathan Deal
206 Washington Street
Suite 203, State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Commissioner Michael A. Beatty
Georgia Department of Community Affairs
60 Executive Park South, NE
Atlanta, GA 30329

Commissioner Chris Cummiskey
Georgia Department of Economic Development
75 Fifth Street, NW, Suite 1200
Atlanta, GA 30308

Dear Governor Deal, Commissioner Cummiskey, and Commissioner Beatty:

We write to ask that the $104 million dollars awarded to Georgia from the National Mortgage Settlement (NMS) be used to benefit the specific communities that suffered inordinate hardship during Georgia's foreclosure crisis. We hope that every effort is made to ensure that those who were most harmed receive the maximum benefit from these resources.

As you know, these resources were made available after grave misconduct on the part of the country's five largest loan servicers, and constitutes the beginning of a restitution for specific harms against our constituents. You may also be aware that the settlement contract determines a specific purpose for these resources. According to the five consent judgments of the NMS, they are to be directed towards activities:

> *"to avoid preventable foreclosures, to ameliorate the effects of the foreclosure crisis, to enhance law enforcement efforts to prevent and prosecute financial fraud, or unfair or deceptive acts or practices and to compensate the States for costs resulting from the alleged unlawful conduct of the Defendants."*

It is our belief that the most appropriate use of resources to meet the description in the Consent Judgments would begin with housing counseling services and legal aid. We hope that every effort is made to fund such activities. Additionally, we request that any settlement resources released by your agencies directly assist those communities that were disproportionally affected by the servicers' misconduct. To that end, we also request information detailing the process for this money's allocation and information on every recipient. Using this money for any purpose other than helping homeowners directly we believe violates the spirit, if not the letter, of the settlement agreement and misses an opportunity to address one of our state's most severe economic burdens.

In addition, we note that a second National Mortgage Settlement with smaller regional banks is currently being negotiated with the same State Attorneys General. We strongly encourage that any direct payment to the State of Georgia included in that agreement be

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allocated to foreclosure remediation and recovery activities in support of Georgia families and communities which continue to battle against the effects of the ongoing foreclosure crisis. We thank you for your assistance in this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

John Lewis
Member of Congress

David Scott
Member of Congress

Henry "Hank" Johnson
Member of Congress