

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS

_____)	
FAIRHOLME FUNDS, INC., et al.,)	
)	
<i>Plaintiffs,</i>)	
)	
v.)	No. 13-465C
)	(Judge Sweeney)
THE UNITED STATES,)	
)	
<i>Defendant.</i>)	
_____)	

PLAINTIFFS’ PUBLIC, REDACTED MOTION TO REMOVE THE “PROTECTED INFORMATION” DESIGNATION FROM CERTAIN UNREDACTED INFORMATION IN DOCUMENTS PRODUCED BY FANNIE MAE

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Plaintiffs Fairholme Funds, Inc., et al. (“Plaintiffs” or “Fairholme”) respectfully move, pursuant to Paragraphs 17 and 19 of the Protective Order (July 16, 2014), Doc. 73, for entry of an order requiring Fannie Mae to remove the “Protected Information” designation it has affixed to the unredacted information in the attached Exhibits 1–6 (the “unredacted information”). Such information is not “Protected Information” as defined in the Protective Order, and keeping this information secret prejudices Plaintiffs, the public, and other courts that will decide legal challenges to which the information is relevant. Such courts deserve to have access to all relevant information. Alternatively, Plaintiffs respectfully move, pursuant to Paragraphs 17 and 18 of the Protective Order, for entry of an order authorizing Plaintiffs to file the unredacted information under seal in in *Fairholme Funds, Inc. v. FHFA*, No. 14-5254 (D.C. Cir.),¹ as well as in any other action challenging the Net Worth Sweep in which Plaintiffs participate either as parties or amici.

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Does the unredacted information meet the definition of “Protected Information” under Paragraph 2 of the Protective Order?
2. Alternatively, should this Court authorize Plaintiffs to file the unredacted information under seal in any other action challenging the Net Worth Sweep in which Plaintiffs participate either as parties or amici?

¹ The D.C. Circuit has consolidated the *Fairholme* appeal with the appeals of other cases challenging the Net Worth Sweep also pending before that court. *See Order, Perry Capital LLC v. Lew*, No. 14-5243 (D.C. Cir. Oct. 27, 2014), ECF No. 1519092. The *Fairholme* plaintiffs (consisting of Plaintiffs in this action, minus Continental Western Insurance Company) have been directed to file a consolidated brief with certain plaintiffs from the other appeals, and that brief is due on June 30, 2015. *See Order, Perry Capital LLC v. Lew*, No. 14-5243 (D.C. Cir. May 6, 2015), ECF No. 1551023.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE²

The ongoing discovery in this case is being conducted pursuant to a standard protective order (“P.O.”) that permits the parties to “designate as Protected Information any information, document, or material that meets the definition of Protected Information set forth in this Protective Order.” P.O. at 1. The Protective Order defines Protected Information as “proprietary, confidential, trade secret, or market-sensitive information, as well as information that is otherwise protected from public disclosure under applicable law.” *Id.* ¶ 2. It also permits a producing party to initially designate all information as protected solely in order to expedite production, but only subject to the receiving party’s right to subsequently challenge that designation in accordance with the procedures established under Paragraph 17 of the order. *Id.*

Paragraph 17 makes clear that the receiving party has the right to challenge a producing party’s designation of material as Protected Information. *Id.* ¶ 17; *see also id.* ¶ 19 (“This Protective Order shall be without prejudice to the right of any party to bring before the court at any time the question whether any particular document or information is Protected Information or whether its use otherwise should be restricted.”). The burden of persuasion rests with the moving party. *Id.* ¶ 17.

In accordance with the procedures established by the Protective Order, Fairholme’s coun-

² Plaintiffs initially planned to file a single motion to address de-designation of Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, Deloitte, and PwC documents, but because of concerns raised by the Government about the permissibility of this approach under the Protective Order, and because of difficulties in obtaining the consent of the non-parties that would have allowed a unified motion to be filed in a timely manner, Plaintiffs have had to file four separate, very similar motions. The Statement of the Case, as well as Parts I.B–D and Part II, are nearly identical across all four motions, with only the entity’s name and related information changed.

sel notified Fannie Mae that it believed Exhibits 1–6 did not contain Protected Information as defined in Paragraph 2 and requested that Fannie Mae de-designate these documents. Fairholme’s counsel also proposed, as a compromise, that Fannie Mae de-designate the unredacted information. *See* Emails from Vincent Colatriano, Counsel for Plaintiffs, to Zac Hudson, Counsel for Fannie Mae (Exhibit 7). Fannie Mae refused to de-designate either the redacted or unredacted versions of the documents at issue. *Id.* Fairholme’s counsel then informed Fannie Mae that Plaintiffs intended to seek a resolution of this issue with this Court. *Id.*

ARGUMENT

I. FANNIE MAE HAS IMPROPERLY DESIGNATED THE UNREDACTED INFORMATION AS PROTECTED INFORMATION.

A. The unredacted information does not come within the terms of the Protective Order’s definition of “Protected Information.”

The Protective Order was carefully crafted, and its definition of “Protected Information” is, accordingly, precisely drawn. Although the order permits a party to “*initially* designate all information” produced as Protected Information, P.O. ¶ 2 (emphasis added), such information must, ultimately, fit within Paragraph 2’s definition if it is to remain hidden from the public. The order does not grant any party *carte blanche* to designate as protected any information that it might wish to shield from public scrutiny; the mere assertion that certain information is protected will not do. As the Federal Circuit has emphasized, “[p]arties frequently abuse Rule 26(c) by seeking protective orders for material not covered by the rule,” but there must be some “demonstrati[on] that there is good cause for restricting the disclosure of the information at issue.” *In re Violation of Rule 28(D)*, 635 F.3d 1352, 1357, 1358 (Fed. Cir. 2011).

There is no plausible argument that the unredacted information is Protected Information.

As an initial matter, it is significant that Fannie Mae has not suggested that the unredacted information qualifies for protection under the Protective Order. Rather, it has generally argued only that the Protective Order does not permit the de-designation of redacted documents, which is clearly wrong. *See infra* pages 10–11.

It is not difficult to see why Fannie Mae has refrained from specifically arguing that the unredacted information meets the definition of Protected Information. None of the information is a “trade secret” or otherwise “proprietary”; nor does any law protect it from public disclosure. These categories of Protected Information, then, provide no refuge for Fannie Mae.

Nor does the unredacted information fall within any legitimate conception of “confidential” information. When this Court heard argument on the parties’ competing proposals regarding the definition of Protected Information, it made clear that the mere fact that a document had not been previously released to the public did *not* suffice to render the document “confidential.” *See, e.g.*, Transcript of July 16, 2014 Status Conference at 10–11 (Exhibit 8, A042–43). Rather, for information to be considered “confidential” within the meaning of the order, the public release of that information must be likely to cause some type of legally cognizable harm to the producing party or to third parties. *Id.*; *see also In re Violation of Rule 28(D)*, 635 F.3d at 1357–58 (“[T]he party seeking to limit the disclosure of discovery materials must show that specific prejudice or harm will result if no protective order is granted” (citation and quotation marks omitted)); *Lakeland Partners, LLC v. United States*, 88 Fed. Cl. 124, 133 (2009) (party seeking to limit discovery or seeking other protections under Rule 26(c) “must make a particularized factual showing of

the harm that would be sustained if the court did not grant a protective order” (citation omitted)).³

Fannie Mae has offered no reason why the unredacted information meets this standard for protection, and there is none. To be sure, the information is found in internal documents that Fannie Mae would apparently rather not have made public, but that alone does not make it Protected Information. If Fannie Mae is permitted to restrict the use and disclosure of information based on such criteria, this litigation will be conducted almost entirely in secret, and the public will be deprived of access to vital information about their Government. That is not the purpose of this Court’s Protective Order. Fannie Mae must point to specific harm to a legally cognizable interest in asserting confidentiality, *see In re Violation of Rule 28(D)*, 635 F.3d at 1357–58, and it has not done so.

Nor could it. As a general matter, the unredacted information relates to Fannie Mae’s understanding of: (1) its deferred tax assets around the time of the Net Worth Sweep; and (2) the financial condition of the GSEs shortly before and after the Net Worth Sweep. *See infra* pages 11–12. Neither of these bears on current market conditions; rather, they contain historical information about, *inter alia*, decisions that have long-since occurred or forecasts that have long-since become outdated.

For example, the relevant unredacted information in Exhibit 3—the minutes of a Septem-

³ *Cf. Hewlett-Packard Co. v. EMC Corp.*, 330 F. Supp. 2d 1087, 1094 (N.D. Cal. 2004) (courts have classified as “confidential” information that is “of either particular significance or [that] which can be readily identified as either attorney work product or within the scope of the attorney-client privilege.”) (alteration in original). *See also Return Mail, Inc. v. United States*, 107 Fed. Cl. 459, 466 (2012) (reviewing cases in which technical knowledge learned by a previous employee is considered confidential information).

ber 13, 2012 Fannie Mae Board of Directors meeting—state that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Exhibit 3, A013–14. This information has nothing to do with present market conditions; it is simply historical information that influenced decisions concerning the GSEs around the time of the Net Worth Sweep.⁴ Like the other unredacted information, it is relevant to *past* events rather than to *present* economic circumstances, but, as importantly, the unredacted information undercuts key claims made by the Government in this and related litigation. *See infra* pages 11–12. That is, perhaps, the true reason why Fannie Mae seeks to keep this information from the public, and this Court should reject those efforts.

That conclusion is reinforced by the lengths to which Plaintiffs have gone to accommodate Fannie Mae’s concerns about the release of sensitive information. This Court need only flip through the attached exhibits to see that Plaintiffs have redacted virtually all information in each document.⁵ Plaintiffs did this despite their belief that the entirety of each document falls outside the scope of the Protective Order. Plaintiffs have tried, in good faith, to find a way for their clients and the public to gain access to important information about actions taken by their Government while addressing Fannie Mae’s objections. What remains in each exhibit is the bare minimum of relevant information in the document. Because this information clearly lies outside the bounds of the Protective Order, there is no justification for keeping this information hidden.

⁴ *See* Gretchen Morgenson, *After the Housing Crisis, a Cash Flood and Silence*, N.Y. TIMES, Feb. 14, 2015, <http://goo.gl/exxOYI> (“Really? The documents the judge has ordered the government to produce were created three to seven years ago. How could they unsettle the markets now?”).

⁵ In accordance with Appendix E(8)(c)(ii) of the Rules of the Court of Federal Claims, Plaintiffs have included only the unredacted pages for each exhibit in the attached appendix.

B. Keeping the unredacted information secret prejudices Plaintiffs' ability to make their case.

The fact that the unredacted information contains no Protected Information ends the relevant analysis under the Protective Order. But it is worth noting that Fannie Mae's refusal to remove the Protected Information designation has had and is continuing to have real-world negative impacts for Fairholme.

Just as keeping the unredacted information from the public makes it impossible to have well-informed democratic deliberation, *see infra* pages 8–9, Fannie Mae's refusal to de-designate the unredacted information prevents Plaintiffs' counsel from consulting with outside experts—as well as with their own clients—about this critical information. As this Court is well-aware, the facts of this case are exceedingly complex, requiring a sophisticated understanding of financial markets, government housing policy, the tax code, congressional action, and other specialized areas of policy. But as long as the unredacted information is subject to the Protective Order, Plaintiffs' counsel are forbidden from sharing that information with scholars, professionals, and client representatives who could lend their expertise to Plaintiffs' case. P.O. ¶ 4. It is clear enough to Plaintiffs' counsel that the unredacted information undermines the Government's narrative in this and other litigation, *see infra* pages 11–12, but it is entirely possible that those with more expertise in the relevant subject matter would have important insights as to what this information reveals, insights that might not be obvious to Plaintiffs' counsel. Indeed, counsel's *own clients* are sophisticated investors who could shed additional light on the information, but Fannie Mae's unjustified designation makes this basic communication impossible. And although the Protective Order permits the sharing of Protected Information with retained experts, P.O. ¶ 4, it

would prejudice Plaintiffs if they were forced to expend resources on such experts when the unredacted information is not subject to the Protective Order in the first place. Thus, there can be no argument that keeping this information secret is costless to Plaintiffs; Fannie Mae's efforts to subject this information to the Protective Order imposes a real burden on Plaintiffs and prejudices their ability to make their case.

C. Keeping the unredacted information hidden from the public contravenes First Amendment principles.

Keeping the unredacted information from the public not only violates the terms of the Protective Order; it contravenes the First Amendment principles that underlie the public's "right of access . . . to civil trials and to their related proceedings *and records*." *New York Civil Liberties Union v. New York City Transit Auth.*, 684 F.3d 286, 298 (2d Cir. 2012) (emphasis added); *see also Courthouse News Serv. v. Planet*, 750 F.3d 776, 786 (9th Cir. 2014) ("Though the Supreme Court originally recognized the First Amendment right of access in the context of criminal trials, the federal courts of appeals have widely agreed that it extends to civil proceedings *and associated records and documents*." (emphasis added) (citation omitted)). As the First Circuit has said, "[F]irst [A]mendment considerations cannot be ignored in reviewing discovery protective orders." *Anderson v. Cryovac, Inc.*, 805 F.2d 1, 7 (1st Cir. 1986). These First Amendment considerations explain the Federal Circuit's willingness to impose sanctions on parties for withholding more information from the public than necessary. *See In re Violation of Rule 28(D)*, 635 F.3d at 1357–58, 1360–61 (citing *Anderson*, 805 F.2d at 7–8). After all, parties "are not the only people who have a legitimate interest in the record compiled in a legal proceeding." *Citizens First Nat'l Bank of Princeton v. Cincinnati Ins. Co.*, 178 F.3d 943, 944 (7th Cir. 1999).

That is especially true in this case, involving as it does the public’s interest in the Government’s “unprecedented” actions. FHFA’s Mot. to Dismiss and, in the Alternative, for Summ. J. at 10, *Fairholme Funds, Inc. v. FHFA*, No. 1:13-cv-01053-RCL (D.D.C. Jan. 17, 2014), ECF No. 28 (“FHFA MTD”) (Exhibit 10, A059). Few issues have so occupied the public mind as the Government’s housing policy in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis. The Government’s actions at issue in this case have been the subject of congressional hearings,⁶ think tank discussions,⁷ policy papers,⁸ and media coverage.⁹ Indeed, one of the first think-tank events in the aftermath of the 2014 midterm election focused on the Government’s policy toward the GSEs.¹⁰ All public deliberation, however, has occurred in the absence of critical information Fannie Mae—without any basis in the Protective Order—has kept secret. The impoverishment of the debate over these crucial questions of public policy “cannot be ignored,” *Anderson*, 805 F.2d at 7, and this Court should give the public access to the unredacted information.

⁶ See, e.g., *Oversight of Federal Housing Finance Agency: Evaluating FHFA as Regulator and Conservator: Hearing Before the S. Comm. on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs*, 113th Cong. (2013) (statement of Edward J. DeMarco, Acting Director of FHFA); *Mortgage Finance Reform: An Examination of the Obama Administration’s Report to Congress: Hearing Before the H. Comm. on Fin. Servs.*, 112th Cong. (2011); *The Future of Housing Finance: A Progress Update on the GSEs: Hearing Before the Subcomm. on Capital Markets, Ins., and Gov’t Sponsored Enters., H. Comm. on Fin. Servs.*, 111th Cong. (2010).

⁷ See, e.g., *The election is over: Now what for Fannie and Freddie?*, AMERICAN ENTER. INST. (Nov. 13, 2014) (“*The election is over*”), <http://goo.gl/7iDdVT>; *The Future of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac*, BROOKINGS (May 13, 2014), <http://goo.gl/IMqUeQ>.

⁸ See, e.g., Joe Gyourko, *A New Direction for Housing Policy*, NAT’L AFF., Spring 2015, at 27.

⁹ See, e.g., Morgenson, *supra* note 4; Jody Shenn, Margaret Cronin Fisk, and Clea Benson, *Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac Plunge After Court Ruling on Profit*, BLOOMBERGBUSINESS, Oct. 1, 2014, <http://goo.gl/kGmr8q>.

¹⁰ *The election is over*, *supra* note 7.

D. The Protective Order permits the de-designation of partially redacted information under Paragraphs 17 and 19.

Fannie Mae has suggested that, if a party wishes to de-designate information that has not been submitted as part of a filing in this Court, either the entire document must be de-designated or it must remain protected. In other words, Fannie Mae denies that the Protective Order permits Plaintiffs' proposal: the de-designation of partially redacted information pursuant to Paragraphs 17 and 19. Rather, Fannie Mae apparently believes that Paragraph 11 is the exclusive method of de-designating partially redacted information.

There is no basis for Fannie Mae's interpretation of the Protective Order. Paragraph 11 is a standard provision of protective orders and merely creates a process to ensure that filings in this Court are made accessible to the public in redacted form. That purpose is consistent with the public's First Amendment right of access to court filings. *See In re Violation of Rule 28(D)*, 635 F.3d at 1356 ("There is a strong presumption in favor of a common law right of public access to court proceedings.").

What Paragraph 11 does *not* do is provide the *exclusive* means of de-designating partially redacted information. Nothing in Paragraph 11 purports to foreclose de-designating partially redacted information under Paragraphs 17 and 19, and nothing in the rest of the Protective Order does either. Indeed, the Protective Order repeatedly distinguishes between *information* and *documents*, and it makes clear that its purpose is to safeguard information. *See, e.g.*, P.O. ¶ 2 (stating that "Protected Information may be *contained in . . . any document*" (emphasis added)). Clearly, then, the order contemplates that information "contained in . . . any document" can be de-designated. Paragraph 19 expressly provides that a party may "question whether any particular document *or information* is Protected Information" (emphasis added); it does not put parties to the

choice of either de-designating an entire document or keeping it secret. The text and purpose of the order contradict Fannie Mae's interpretation.

E. The Government made assertions in the D.D.C. *Fairholme* litigation that are undermined by the unredacted information. The D.C. Circuit and other courts should have access to the relevant facts in making their decisions.

The Supreme Court has emphasized the importance of “protect[ing] the integrity of the judicial process” and “prevent[ing] improper use of judicial machinery.” *New Hampshire v. Maine*, 532 U.S. 742, 749, 750 (2001) (quotation marks omitted). Those values are implicated here. The Government made assertions in the D.D.C.'s *Fairholme* litigation that are contradicted or undermined by the unredacted information:¹¹

- a) The Deferred Tax Assets (DTA): Mario Ugoletti's¹² December 17, 2013 declaration—which the Government submitted to the D.D.C.—asserts:

At the time of the negotiation and execution of the Third Amendment, the Conservator and the Enterprises had not yet begun to discuss whether or when the Enterprises would be able to recognize any value to their deferred tax assets. Thus, neither the Conservator nor Treasury envisioned at the time of the Third Amendment that Fannie Mae's valuation allowance on its deferred tax assets would be reversed in early 2013, resulting in a sudden and substantial increase in Fannie Mae's net worth, which was paid to Treasury in mid-2013 by virtue of the net worth dividend.

Ugoletti Decl. ¶ 20 (Exhibit 9, A054–55). Yet, as previously mentioned, the minutes of a September 13, 2012 Fannie Mae Board of Directors meeting—in which at least one FHFA representative participated by phone—state that

and

Exhibit 3, A013–14.

¹¹ The categories listed below illustrate one way in which each document is relevant. Of course, each document might be relevant to multiple issues (including issues not listed here), and the categories should not be understood as implying otherwise.

¹² Mario Ugoletti served as Special Advisor to the Office of the Director of FHFA at the time of the email.

Given this meeting's occurrence less than a month after the Third Amendment and the *quarterly* assessment of the DTA, it is implausible for the Government to maintain that FHFA and the GSEs "had not yet begun to discuss whether or when the Enterprises would be able to recognize any value to their deferred tax assets" at the time of the Net Worth Sweep, and it strains credulity that neither FHFA nor Treasury "envisaged at the time of the Third Amendment that Fannie Mae's valuation allowance on its deferred tax assets would be reversed in early 2013." Ugoletti Decl. ¶ 20.

- b) The purported GSE death spiral: Throughout this and the D.D.C. *Fairholme* litigation, the Government has argued that, at the time of the Net Worth Sweep, the GSEs faced an impending death spiral: "The Enterprises were unable to meet their 10% dividend obligations without drawing more from Treasury, causing a downward spiral of repaying preexisting obligations *to* Treasury through additional draws *from* Treasury. Thus, once the capacity became fixed in 2013, the Enterprises' fixed dividend would erode the Treasury commitment." FHFA MTD 3 (Exhibit 10, A058).

But the unredacted information in the exhibits tells a different story. A July 19, 2012 Fannie Mae "Board meeting" presentation, for example, included graphs that noted:

[REDACTED] Exhibit 2, A008; *see also id.* at A009. Similarly, an August 9, 2012 Treasury meeting—just days before the Net Worth Sweep—featured a graph showing that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Exhibit 1, A003; *see also id.* at A004. There were, in short, many indications that the GSEs' financial condition was improving, not spiraling downward. *See* Exhibit 3, A013–14; Exhibit 4, A020–21; Exhibit 5, A024–25; Exhibit 6, A029.

Each of the above categories contains several unredacted statements that contradict or undermine the Government's assertions in the *Fairholme* litigation, and the D.C. Circuit has a right to have such information in making its decision. *Cf. Ex parte Upperco*, 239 U.S. 435, 440 (1915) (ordering the release of protected information to a third-party litigant because of "[t]he necessities of litigation and the requirements of justice"). This Court should de-designate the unredacted information so that it is not the only court with access to critical information relating to the Net Worth Sweep.

II. ALTERNATIVELY, THIS COURT SHOULD AUTHORIZE PLAINTIFFS TO FILE THE UNREDACTED INFORMATION IN THE *FAIRHOLME* D.C. CIRCUIT LITIGATION AND IN ANY OTHER ACTION CHALLENGING THE NET WORTH SWEEP IN WHICH PLAINTIFFS PARTICIPATE EITHER AS PARTIES OR AMICI.

Should this Court conclude (wrongly, we respectfully submit) that the unredacted information is Protected Information under the terms of the Protective Order, Plaintiffs request that the Court at least permit the filing of such information under seal in the *Fairholme* D.C. Circuit litigation, as well as in any other action challenging the Net Worth Sweep in which Plaintiffs participate either as parties or amici. This alternative course of action is specifically provided for in the Protective Order. *See* P.O. ¶ 18. The opening briefs in the *Fairholme* appeal are due on June 30, 2015. *See supra* note 1. As demonstrated above, the unredacted information is plainly relevant to the D.C. Circuit's decision and to the decisions by other courts that will decide similar challenges. These courts deserve to have access to this information when making their decisions.

Any concerns about sensitive information can be accommodated in the same way they were accommodated in this case: by filing the information under seal and placing the litigants under the terms of the Protective Order. As the Tenth Circuit said in a similar context, “[A]ny legitimate interest the defendants have in continued secrecy as against the public at large can be accommodated by placing [third-party litigants] under the restrictions on use and disclosure contained in the original protective order.” *United Nuclear Corp. v. Cranford Ins. Co.*, 905 F.2d 1424, 1428 (10th Cir. 1990); *cf. Olympic Ref. Co. v. Carter*, 332 F.2d 260, 264–66 (9th Cir. 1964) (permitting the modification of protective orders to allow third-party litigants to take advantage of discovered information).

The unredacted information should be made public, but, failing that, it should at least be

made available to other courts under seal.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court enter an order (1) requiring Fannie Mae to remove the “Protected Information” designation from the unredacted information or, alternatively, (2) authorize the filing of such information under seal in the *Fairholme* D.C. Circuit litigation, as well as in any other action challenging the Net Worth Sweep in which Plaintiffs participate either as parties or amici.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and accurate copy of the foregoing was served upon all counsel of record on this 26th day of June, 2015, via the Court's Electronic Case Filing system, and upon counsel listed below by electronic mail:

D. Zachary Hudson
Counsel for Fannie Mae
Bancroft PLLC
500 New Jersey Avenue, N.W.
7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20001
zhudson@bancroftpllc.com

s/ Charles J. Cooper
Charles J. Cooper

APPENDIX

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EXHIBIT 4
REDACTED

EXHIBIT 5
REDACTED

EXHIBIT 6
REDACTED

EXHIBIT 7

From: Zac Hudson [<mailto:zhudson@bancroftpllc.com>]
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2015 3:53 PM
To: Vince Colatriano
Subject: RE: Redactions

Vince,

Our position does apply to the Deloitte documents.

Thanks,

Zac

From: Vince Colatriano [<mailto:vcolatriano@cooperkirk.com>]
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2015 3:51 PM
To: Zac Hudson
Subject: RE: Redactions

Zac –

Thanks for getting back to me. Can you clarify whether your position applies to the Deloitte-produced documents as well?

Take care

Vince

Vincent J. Colatriano
Cooper & Kirk, PLLC
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Washington, D.C. 20036
202-220-9656
www.cooperkirk.com

From: Zac Hudson [<mailto:zhudson@bancroftpllc.com>]
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2015 10:01 AM
To: Vince Colatriano
Subject: Redactions

Vince,

I discussed your redaction request with my client, and we continue to believe that the documents that are the subject of your request are appropriately marked protected information. We would be happy to consider your redaction proposal in connection with a filing, as the protective order contemplates, but—in the absence of such a filing—we cannot agree to your proposal at this time.

Thanks,

Zac

D. Zachary Hudson

Bancroft PLLC

1919 M Street, N.W.

Suite 470

Washington, D.C. 20036

(202) 640-6528

zhudson@bancroftpllc.com

From: Ciatti, Michael [<mailto:MCiatti@KSLAW.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 10:00 AM
To: Vince Colatriano; 'zhudson@bancroftpllc.com'
Subject: Re: Fairholme -- De-Designation of Redacted Documents

Vince,

Thanks for your email. I have caught up with Zac and can confirm that our position regarding your request apply to each of our client's respective auditors (Deloitte and PwC). And we're happy to have a call to discuss your request. Zac and I can talk tomorrow at 330. Let us know if that works for you. If it does, will you circulate a conference call number?

Thanks a lot.

Mike

From: Vince Colatriano [<mailto:vcolatriano@cooperkirk.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 06:26 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Ciatti, Michael; Zac Hudson <zhudson@bancroftpllc.com>
Subject: Fairholme -- De-Designation of Redacted Documents

Mike and Zac –

I am in receipt of your respective emails declining to agree to our request that you “de-designate” redacted versions of documents that you had earlier declined to “de-designate in full. I would appreciate it if you could clarify whether your positions on this issue also extends to our similar requests to PwC (in the case of Freddie) and Deloitte (in the case of Fannie).

In addition, please consider this email to constitute notice, pursuant to Paragraph 17 of the Protective Order, of our intent to seek a ruling from the Court as to whether the documents at issue (or unredacted versions of the documents) should be de-designated.

Of course, while we reserve our rights to seek a Court ruling on this issue, we would prefer to continue to explore whether we can reach an amicable resolution. To that end, I was hoping you both might be available on Wednesday or Thursday for a quick call (or if necessary, separate calls) to discuss this issue.

Thanks

Vince

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From: Zac Hudson [<mailto:zhudson@bancroftpllc.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 5:00 PM
To: Vince Colatriano
Subject: RE: Fairholme -- Flash Drive

Vince,

I have had a chance to review your proposed redactions. As I understand the protective order, this is the sort of thing you would propose in connection with citation to docs in a court filing so that the redacted version can be made part of the public record. Since the request seems to be disconnected from a filing (please let me know if I am wrong about that), I think this is a conversation we should be having at a later date should a filing warrant it. In other words, while we would consider a request like this under circumstances contemplated by the protective order, it seems out of place at this juncture.

Many thanks,

Zac

From: Vince Colatriano [<mailto:vcolatriano@cooperkirk.com>]
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2015 12:10 PM
To: Zac Hudson
Cc: Howard Slugh; Prinz, Barrie (US - New York)
Subject: Fairholme -- Flash Drive

Zac –

I just wanted to give you a heads up that Barrie Prinz has asked us to include on the flash drive that we'll be sending you redacted versions of certain Deloitte-produced documents that we've asked to de-designate. Please let Howie or me know if you have any questions.

Thanks

Vince

Vincent J. Colatriano
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From: Vince Colatriano
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2015 6:29 PM
To: 'Zac Hudson'
Cc: David Thompson; Brian Barnes
Subject: FW: Fannie Docs 1

Zac –

Thanks very much for agreeing to “de-designate” a number of Fannie documents that we believed did not meet the standard for treatment as Protected Information under the Protective Order.

We have since gone back to the documents that Fannie did not agree to de-designate, and have redacted them substantially. Although we continue to believe that the unredacted documents do not qualify as Protected Information, we were hoping that, as a compromise, Fannie could agree to de-designate the redacted versions of the documents. We have attached a password-protected file with the redacted documents, the Bates numbers of which are identified below. Please treat this email as a notice, pursuant to Paragraph 17 of the Protective Order, of our belief that the redacted documents in the attached file should not be treated as Protected Information. We would appreciate it if you could get back to us as promptly as possible with your response to this request.

Due to the size of the files, we have split the Fannie documents into three files. I will forward the second and third files shortly, after which I will forward to you by separate email the password for the files.

As always, I’m available at your convenience to discuss this issue.

Thanks very much

Vince

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FM_Fairholme_CFC-00003435

FM_Fairholme_CFC-00003656

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EXHIBIT 8

1 UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS

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3

4 FAIRHOLME FUNDS, INC., ET AL.,)

5 Plaintiffs,) Case No.

6 vs.) 13-465C

7 THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)

8 Defendant.)

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Courtroom 4

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Howard T. Markey National Courts Building

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717 Madison Place, N.W.

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Washington, D.C.

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Wednesday, July 16, 2014

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2:00 p.m.

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Status Conference

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BEFORE: THE HONORABLE MARGARET M. SWEENEY

22

23

24

25

Elizabeth M. Farrell, CERT, Digital Transcriber

Fairholme Funds, Inc., et al. v. USA

7/16/2014

1 APPEARANCES:

2 ON BEHALF OF THE PLAINTIFFS:

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4 VINCENT J. COLATRIANO, ESQ.

5 BRIAN BARNES, ESQ.

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17 GREGG M. SCHWIND, ESQ.

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Fairholme Funds, Inc., et al. v. USA

7/16/2014

1 Our proposed definition in our proposed paragraph 2
2 fully satisfies the relevant principles underlying Rule 26C
3 and fully protects any interest a producing party may have in
4 protecting against the disclosure of information that is
5 legitimately viewed as sensitive. We have defined protected
6 information to include proprietary, trade secret or market-
7 sensitive information, as well as other information that is
8 otherwise protected from disclosure under applicable law.
9 That standard, we would submit, is consistent with the
10 language of the rules and the case law.

11 And by including the term "market-sensitive
12 information," the proposal will protect any information whose
13 disclosure would have the types of market distorting or
14 economic effects that the Government has warned about in its
15 separate pending motion for protective order regarding
16 materials related to the conservatorships. And, in fact, we
17 took the term "market-sensitive information" from the
18 Government's own proposal. We had originally proposed
19 something like competitively-sensitive information. The
20 Government responded by proposing "market-sensitive" and
21 we've adopted that. We think that makes sense in the context
22 of this case.

23 THE COURT: But you did not agree with the word
24 "confidential."

25 MR. COLATRIANO: The word "confidential" was added

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Fairholme Funds, Inc., et al. v. USA

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1 very late in the game. It was back on Friday afternoon, by
2 the Government. They had not proposed that before. I don't
3 think we would have a problem with that word as long as it
4 weren't meant to describe anything that's not publicly --
5 that hasn't publicly been released is, therefore, protected.
6 We don't think that's the standard. In the case law,
7 confidential, in this context, usually means something whose
8 disclosure could cause some harm. So, the mere fact that it
9 hasn't already been publicly released is not sufficient.

10 THE COURT: Yes.

11 MR. COLATRIANO: And, so, it's not --

12 THE COURT: No, I agree with you. I did -- I was
13 having difficulty understanding, though, why Plaintiff
14 opposed "confidential." So, that's --

15 MR. COLATRIANO: That was added literally at the --
16 by the Government at the last minute on Friday and they added
17 it as a stand-alone category. And if what they meant was it
18 hasn't been publicly -- if it hasn't already been publicly
19 released, it should never be publicly released or it should
20 have these restrictions, then we don't agree with that.
21 But --

22 THE COURT: Well, I don't think that's the
23 understood definition of confidential.

24 MR. COLATRIANO: And with that understanding, if
25 it's something that (inaudible) disclosure would cause these

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Fairholme Funds, Inc., et al. v. USA

7/16/2014

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

I, Elizabeth M. Farrell, court-approved transcriber, certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the official electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-titled matter.

DATE: 7/17/14

S/Elizabeth M. Farrell
ELIZABETH M. FARRELL, CERT

EXHIBIT 9

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

<p>PERRY CAPITAL LLC, Plaintiff, v. JACOB J. LEW, <i>et al.</i>, Defendants.</p>	<p>Civil Action No. 13-cv-1025 (RLW)</p>
<p>FAIRHOLME FUNDS, INC., <i>et al.</i> Plaintiffs, v. FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY, <i>et al.</i>, Defendants.</p>	<p>Civil Action No. 13-cv-1053 (RLW)</p>
<p>ARROWOOD INDEMNITY COMPANY, <i>et al.</i>, Plaintiffs, v. FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION, <i>et al.</i>, Defendants.</p>	<p>Civil Action No. 13-cv-1439 (RLW)</p>

DECLARATION OF MARIO UGOLETTI

I, Mario Ugoletti, hereby declare, based on personal knowledge of the facts, as follows:

1. I am Special Advisor to the Office of the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency (“FHFA”), a role I assumed in September 2009. As Special Advisor, my responsibilities include advising FHFA’s Acting Director Edward DeMarco concerning the Senior Preferred Stock Purchase Agreements (“PSPAs”), described *infra*. Additionally, I serve as the primary liaison with Treasury concerning the PSPAs and any amendments to the PSPAs.

2. I was employed at Treasury from 1995 to 2009, serving as Director of the Office of Financial Institutions Policy from 2004-2009. In that capacity, I participated in the creation and implementation of the PSPAs.

3. FHFA is an independent federal agency with regulatory authority over the Federal National Mortgage Association (“Fannie Mae”), the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (“Freddie Mac”) (together, the “Enterprises”) and the twelve Federal Home Loan Banks (“Banks”). 12 U.S.C. § 4511.

4. On September 6, 2008, FHFA’s Director appointed FHFA as Conservator of the Enterprises, and on September 7, 2008 FHFA as Conservator of the Enterprises entered into two materially identical Senior Preferred Stock Purchase Agreements (together, the “PSPAs”) with the United States Treasury (“Treasury”)—one for Fannie Mae and one for Freddie Mac. The Amended and Restated Agreements dated September 26, 2008 and subsequent amendments are currently available at <http://www.fhfa.gov/Default.aspx?Page=364>.

5. The PSPAs were a last resort after it became apparent that no infusions of capital from the private sector were forthcoming to save the Enterprises. *See Oversight Hearing to Examine Recent Treasury and FHFA Actions Regarding the Housing GSEs Before the H. Comm. on Financial Services*, 110th Cong., at 5 (Sep. 25, 2008) (statement of James B. Lockhart III,

Director, Federal Housing Finance Agency), currently *available at* <http://archives.financialservices.house.gov/hearing110/lockhart092508.pdf> (“After substantial effort and communication with market participants, each company reported to FHFA and to Treasury that it was unable to access capital markets to bolster its capital position without Treasury financing. FHFA’s and Treasury’s own discussions with investment bankers and investors corroborated this conclusion.”). The PSPAs provided the market with assurances that Treasury would provide a backstop to the Enterprises. Absent the commitments of Treasury, the Enterprises would have collapsed. *See id.* at 5-6 (“In the absence of access to new capital, the only alternative left to the firms was to cease new business and shed assets in a weak market. That would have been disastrous for the mortgage markets as mortgage rates would have continued to move higher and, in turn, disastrous for the Enterprises as the prices of their securities would have fallen and credit losses would have increased.”); Timothy F. Geithner, Secretary, U.S. Dep’t of the Treasury, Written Testimony Before the H. Comm. on Financial Services (Mar. 23, 2010), currently *available at* <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/tg603.aspx> (“In 2007, the GSEs reported combined losses of over \$5 billion . . . The GSEs ultimately reported combined 2008 losses in excess of \$108 billion. . . . Both companies were severely undercapitalized and would not have been able to meet their obligations without the intervention and financial support of the government.”). With the PSPAs and the market assurance they provided, the Enterprises were able to remain in operation.

6. The PSPAs provided that the Enterprises would draw funds from Treasury against the Treasury commitment if the Enterprises exhausted all of their stockholder equity and had a negative net worth (defined as liabilities exceeding assets). If Enterprise liabilities exceeded assets, the provision for mandatory receivership in the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (“HERA”) would be triggered. The PSPAs were designed so that the Enterprises could

draw funds from Treasury in amounts necessary to cure their negative net worth and bring their capital to zero. By the end of 2008, all shareholder equity had been exhausted and the Enterprises drew on the Treasury commitment to avoid mandatory receivership. *See* FHFA Data as of November 14, 2013 on Treasury and Federal Reserve Purchase Programs for GSE & Mortgage-Related Securities at 2, currently *available at* <http://www.fhfa.gov/webfiles/25784/TSYSupport%202013-11-13.pdf> (Freddie Mac draw of \$13.8 billion for third quarter 2008; Fannie Mae draw of \$15.2 billion for fourth quarter 2008).

7. The PSPAs gave Treasury an expansive bundle of rights and entitlements in exchange for the lifeline that Treasury provided, without which the Enterprises would have gone out of business. For example, Treasury received warrants to acquire 79.9% of the common stock of the Enterprises for a nominal payment. In addition, under the PSPAs, Treasury obtained Senior Preferred Stock that is senior in priority over all other series of preferred stock. The Treasury Senior Preferred Stock in each Enterprise had an initial face value of \$1 billion, which increases by any amount that the Enterprises draw from Treasury under the Treasury Commitment. Further, the Treasury Senior Preferred Stock has a liquidation preference so that Treasury has priority over any other preferred or common shareholders in the event of a liquidation — that is, Treasury is entitled to the value of its Senior Preferred Stock (face value plus any amounts drawn from Treasury by the Enterprises, without reduction for dividends or other amounts that the Enterprises might pay to Treasury) before any other shareholders — preferred or common — are paid anything in liquidation.

8. The Treasury Senior Preferred Stock also included payment obligations from the Enterprises to Treasury, commensurate with the enormous risks and financial commitments that Treasury assumed. The Enterprises were obligated to pay a 10% annual dividend together with a

Periodic Commitment Fee (“PCF”) that was “intended to fully compensate [Treasury] for the support provided by the ongoing Commitment.” Amended and Restated Agreements, § 3.2(b) (Sept. 26, 2008). The PSPAs provided that the amount of the PCF to be imposed beginning January 2010 “shall be determined with reference to the market value of the Commitment as then in effect.” *Id.*

9. The PSPA gave Treasury the right, in its sole discretion, to waive the PCF for a year at a time “based on adverse conditions in the United States mortgage market.” Treasury exercised this right to waive the PCF for 2010 and 2011, years in which the Enterprises had insufficient funds to pay even the 10% dividend, let alone an additional PCF, stating that “the imposition of the PCF at this time would not fulfill its intended purpose of generating increased compensation to the American taxpayer.” Periodic Commitment Fee Waiver Letters from Dept. of Treasury to FHFA (Dec. 29, 2010; Mar. 31, 2011; Jun. 30, 2011; Sept. 30, 2011; Dec. 21, 2011). It was clear by this time that, given the risks of the Enterprises and the enormity of the Treasury commitment, the value of the PCF was incalculably large.

10. Under the Second Amendment to the PSPAs (executed December 24, 2009), Treasury was obligated to commit any amount of funds necessary to maintain the Enterprises’ positive net worth through December 31, 2012, subject to an initial cap of \$200 billion for each of the Enterprises plus the amount of draws between January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2012. As of January 1, 2013, however, Treasury’s financial commitment cap became fixed: the amount

remaining available to Fannie Mae under the cap was \$117.6 billion, and the amount remaining available to Freddie Mac under the cap was \$140.5 billion.¹

11. By late 2011, analysts and key stakeholders, including institutional and Asian investors in the Enterprises' debt and mortgage backed securities (MBS), began expressing concerns about the adequacy of Treasury's financial commitment to the Enterprises after January 1, 2013, when the cap on Treasury's funding commitment would become fixed.

12. The principal driver of these concerns about the adequacy of Treasury's capital commitment were questions about the Enterprises' ability to pay the 10% annual dividend to Treasury without having to draw additional funds from Treasury, thereby eating away at the amount remaining available under the capped Treasury commitment. From the outset of the PSPAs, the Enterprises could not at times generate enough income to make these dividend payments.

13. The Enterprises drew funds from Treasury to pay the required 10% dividend back to Treasury. Of the \$188 billion the Enterprises drew from Treasury from the outset of the PSPAs (September 2008) to the execution of the Third Amendment (August 2012), \$45.7 billion was drawn solely to pay the 10% annual dividend back to Treasury. See FHFA, Data as of November 14, 2013 on Treasury and Federal Reserve Purchase Programs for GSE and

¹ Under the Second Amendment to the PSPAs, Treasury committed to provide each Enterprise the greater of: (i) \$200 billion or (ii) \$200 billion plus the Enterprise's cumulative draws for 2010, 2011, and 2012, less the Enterprise's positive net worth, if any, on December 31, 2012. Second Amendment to Amended and Restated Senior Preferred Stock Purchase Agreement, at 3.

For Fannie Mae, alternative (ii) provided the greater amount: \$200 billion + \$40.9 billion (cumulative draws for 2010-2012) – \$7.2 billion (positive net worth on December 31, 2012) – \$116.1 billion (total draws from 2008-2012) = \$117.6 billion.

For Freddie Mac, alternative (ii) provided the greater amount: \$200 billion + \$20.6 billion (cumulative draws for 2010-2012) – \$8.8 billion (positive net worth on December 31, 2012) – \$71.3 billion (total draws from 2008-2012) = \$140.5 billion.

Mortgage-Related Securities at 2, 3. Additionally, each time the Enterprises drew funds to pay the 10% dividend, the total amount of the Treasury draw increased, in turn increasing the amount of the next 10% dividend payment.

14. By mid-2012, the amount of the annual 10% dividend had grown so large—\$11.7 billion for Fannie Mae and \$7.2 billion for Freddie Mac—that it appeared unlikely that either of the Enterprises would be able to meet that amount consistently without drawing additional funds from Treasury. *See* Freddie Mac, Quarterly Report (Form 10-Q) at 10, 85 (May 3, 2012), currently available at http://www.freddiemac.com/investors/sec_filings/index.html (“Over time, our dividend obligation to Treasury will increasingly drive future draws. Although we may experience period-to-period variability in earnings and comprehensive income, it is unlikely that we will generate net income or comprehensive income in excess of our annual dividends payable to Treasury over the long term.”); Freddie Mac, Quarterly Report (Form 10-Q) at 10, 92 (Aug. 7, 2012), currently available at http://www.freddiemac.com/investors/sec_filings/index.html (same); Fannie Mae, Quarterly Report (Form 10-Q) at 11, 81 (May 9, 2012), currently available at <http://www.fanniemae.com/resources/file/ir/pdf/quarterly-annual-results/2012/q12012.pdf> (“Although we may experience period-to-period volatility in earnings and comprehensive income, we do not expect to generate net income or comprehensive income in excess of our annual dividend obligation to Treasury over the long term.”); Fannie Mae, Quarterly Report (Form 10-Q) at 12-13, 83 (Aug. 8, 2012), currently available at <http://www.fanniemae.com/resources/file/ir/pdf/quarterly-annual-results/2012/q22012.pdf> (same). Because the cap on the Treasury commitment became fixed on January 1, 2013, each dollar drawn from Treasury merely to repay the Treasury dividend was one less dollar available

to the Enterprises to draw in the event the Enterprise suffered losses due, for example, to a decline in the housing market or broader economic turbulence.

15. Market forecasts—which FHFA monitored—predicted that the Enterprises’ ongoing payment of the 10% dividend would completely exhaust Treasury’s funding commitment within ten years, leading to potential downgrades in the Enterprises’ credit ratings. Moody’s rating service opined that the 10% dividend payments would “eliminate Fannie Mae’s contingent capital by 2019 and Freddie Mac’s by 2022 . . . [even] assum[ing] that the GSEs are able to fully offset credit losses, which we believe is unlikely.” Moody’s, Sector Comment, “Plan To Raise Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac Guarantee Fees Raises Question of Support,” at 2 (Sept. 26, 2011). Moody’s stated that this “would be credit negative and prompt a review of [the Enterprises’] Aaa ratings.” *Id.* Likewise, Deutsche Bank observed that “diminishing Treasury support raises the risk that the agencies one day might face challenges in covering MBS losses” and that such a risk “becomes greater in a housing market catastrophe, such as the one that started in the US after 2006.” Deutsche Bank, *The Path of US Support for Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac*, THE OUTLOOK, Mar. 14, 2012, at 6.

16. FHFA shared the concerns that the 10% annual dividend to Treasury would reduce the amount of the Treasury commitment starting in 2013. Treasury also generated and provided certain forecasts to FHFA that were similar to those prepared by market participants.

17. These concerns about the adequacy of Treasury’s financial commitment undermined the purpose of the PSPAs to express financial support to holders of Enterprise debt (*i.e.*, bondholders) and mortgage backed securities. *See* FHFA Mortgage Market Note (Dec. 5, 2008), currently available at <http://www.fhfa.gov/webfiles/1241/mmmnote084.pdf>. The strength of that support depends upon the Enterprises having a sufficiently large pool of available funds

from Treasury that will permit the Enterprises to continue to operate under adverse market conditions that may arise in the coming years.

18. To resolve these concerns, FHFA and Treasury agreed on the provisions that were incorporated into the Third Amendment, executed on August 17, 2012. The Third Amendment (1) eliminated the 10% annual dividend, (2) added a quarterly variable dividend in the amount (if any) of each Enterprises' positive net worth (above net worth values that were specified in the Third Amendment), and (3) suspended the PCF for as long as the quarterly variable dividend is in effect. The new dividend structure eliminated the risk that borrowings to make fixed dividend payments would lead to the exhaustion of the Treasury commitment.

19. These changes in structure did not change the underlying economics of the PSPAs. It was my belief at this time, given the size and importance of the Treasury commitment, that through the liquidation preference, fixed dividends, and the market value of the PCF, Treasury would receive as much from the Enterprises under the Second Amendment as it would under the Third Amendment. Thus, the intention of the Third Amendment was not to increase compensation to Treasury — the Amendment would not do that — but to protect the Enterprises from the erosion of the Treasury commitment that was threatened by the fixed dividend. The Third Amendment was therefore consistent with the intent of the original PSPAs to (1) fully compensate Treasury for the value of its financial support, without which the Enterprises would have been forced into receivership, and (2) protect the Enterprises and the national housing market.

20. At the time of the negotiation and execution of the Third Amendment, the Conservator and the Enterprises had not yet begun to discuss whether or when the Enterprises would be able to recognize any value to their deferred tax assets. Thus, neither the Conservator

nor Treasury envisioned at the time of the Third Amendment that Fannie Mae's valuation allowance on its deferred tax assets would be reversed in early 2013, resulting in a sudden and substantial increase in Fannie Mae's net worth, which was paid to Treasury in mid-2013 by virtue of the net worth dividend.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 17 day of DECEMBER 2013 at Washington, D.C.

By: 
MARIO UGOLETTI

*Special Advisor to the Office of the Director,
Federal Housing Finance Agency*

EXHIBIT 10

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

PERRY CAPITAL LLC,

Plaintiff,

v.

JACOB J. LEW, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 13-cv-1025 (RLW)

FAIRHOLME FUNDS, INC., *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

v.

FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 13-cv-1053 (RLW)

ARROWOOD INDEMNITY COMPANY,
et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE
ASSOCIATION, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 13-cv-1439 (RLW)

In re Fannie Mae/Freddie Mac Senior Preferred
Stock Purchase Agreement Class Action Litigations

This document relates to:
ALL CASES

Misc. Action No. 13-mc-01288 (RLW)

**MOTION TO DISMISS ALL CLAIMS BY DEFENDANTS FEDERAL HOUSING
FINANCE AGENCY AS CONSERVATOR FOR FANNIE MAE AND FREDDIE MAC,
FHFA DIRECTOR MELVIN L. WATT, FANNIE MAE, AND FREDDIE MAC
AND, IN THE ALTERNATIVE, FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT AS TO PLAINTIFFS'
ARBITRARY AND CAPRICIOUS CLAIMS BY DEFENDANTS FEDERAL HOUSING
FINANCE AGENCY AS CONSERVATOR FOR FANNIE MAE AND FREDDIE MAC,
AND FHFA DIRECTOR MELVIN L. WATT**

The importance to the national economy of the massive, complex, and ongoing financial commitments from Treasury to the Enterprises cannot be overstated. The governing principle of the contractual framework between FHFA, as Conservator on behalf of the Enterprises, and Treasury was that whenever the Enterprises' net worth fell below zero, Treasury would infuse sufficient capital to eliminate the deficit. The Enterprises were obliged to pay Treasury a 10% dividend on a liquidation preference in amounts tied to the Treasury capital infusions. In addition, the Enterprises committed to pay Treasury Periodic Commitment Fees in any amounts necessary to fully compensate federal taxpayers for the "market value" of the continuing commitment. Subsequent to the execution of the PSPAs, Congress highlighted the critical importance of the Periodic Commitment Fees by enacting special legislation mandating that the Periodic Commitment Fees would be used exclusively for the purpose of reducing the national debt.

At the outset, the PSPAs capped the Treasury commitment at \$100 billion per Enterprise. In the First Amended PSPAs, the cap was doubled to \$200 billion per Enterprise, and in the Second Amended PSPAs, the method for calculating the cap was changed, resulting in a further increase to approximately \$234 billion for Fannie Mae and \$212 billion for Freddie Mac. But as events unfolded, there was concern that even this massive commitment of federal tax dollars might not suffice. The Enterprises were unable to meet their 10% dividend obligations without drawing more from Treasury, causing a downward spiral of repaying preexisting obligations *to* Treasury through additional draws *from* Treasury. Thus, once the capacity became fixed in 2013, the Enterprises' fixed dividend would erode the Treasury commitment. The very real possibility that the Enterprises might exhaust the Treasury commitment rattled the confidence of

- “preserve and conserve the assets and property of the [Enterprises],” *id.* § 4617(b)(2)(B)(iv);
- “take over the assets of and operate the [Enterprises] with all the powers of the shareholders, the directors, and the officers,” *id.* § 4617(b)(2)(B)(i);
- “transfer or sell any asset or liability of the [Enterprises] . . . without any approval, assignment, or consent with respect to such transfer or sale,” *id.* § 4617(b)(2)(G); and
- “take any [authorized action], which the Agency determines is in the best interests of the [Enterprises] or the Agency,” *id.* § 4617(b)(2)(J)(ii).

Reinforcing and facilitating the exercise of the Conservator’s plenary operational authority, Congress insulated the Conservator’s actions from judicial review. Under 12 U.S.C. § 4617(f), “no court may take any action to restrain or affect the exercise of powers or functions of the Agency as a conservator.”

III. The PSPAs Are Structured to Provide Unprecedented Financial Support in Consideration for Senior Preferred Rights That Protect Taxpayers

A. Treasury Agrees to Provide Unprecedented Support to the Enterprises Through the PSPAs

In connection with the conservatorship appointments, Treasury and FHFA—expressly in its capacity as Conservator of the Enterprises—entered into two Senior Preferred Stock Purchase Agreements (together, the “PSPAs”), one for each Enterprise.⁵ Treasury agreed to infuse billions of taxpayer dollars into the Enterprises through the PSPAs to provide the capital needed for the Enterprises to remain in operation and avoid mandatory receivership and liquidation.

FHFA0128-0155 (Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac’s Senior Preferred Stock Purchase Agreements with Treasury (September 26, 2008) (“PSPAs”)). This lifeline of unprecedented federal taxpayer

⁵ HERA specifically amended the statutory charters of the Enterprises to grant Treasury the authority to enter into such transactions for the purchase of securities issued by the Enterprises, so long as Treasury and the Enterprises reached a “mutual agreement” for such a purchase. *See* 12 U.S.C. § 1719(g)(1)(A) (Fannie Mae); *id.* § 1455(l)(1)(A) (Freddie Mac).