

April 9, 2004

The Honorable Alphonso Jackson
Secretary
Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 Seventh Street, SW
Suite 10100
Washington, DC 20410-0050

Re: Withdrawal of Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA) Draft Final Rule

Dear Secretary Jackson:

As Chief Counsel for Advocacy at the U.S. Small Business Administration, I am writing to commend your leadership in withdrawing the draft final RESPA rule from the Office of Management and Budget's review.

Over the past two years, my office worked closely with small businesses in the real estate industry regarding the potential impact of the proposed RESPA rule. While we applaud the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) efforts to simplify, improve and lower the costs of obtaining home mortgages, we strongly support HUD's decision to reexamine the RESPA rule, meet with industry groups, and seek public comment on a new proposed rule. My staff of regulatory experts and economists is available to work with your team as it revisits this rulemaking. Your decision demonstrates HUD's commitment to give proper consideration to small entity impacts under Executive Order 13272 and the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

Once again, thank you for leadership in deciding to take a closer look at the potential impact of the RESPA rule before moving forward.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Sullivan
Chief Counsel for Advocacy

cc: Dr. John Graham, Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs