



# AMERICANS for TAX REFORM

Grover G. Norquist  
President

November 5, 2007

All Members of the House Judiciary Committee

**Re: H.R. 3609, the Emergency Home Ownership and Mortgage Equity Protection Act of 2007**

Dear Congressman,

The desire to help those in danger of losing their homes in a time of need is as understandable as it is admirable. Unfortunately, the path chosen by H.R. 3609 will make the economic situation in this country worse, not better, and end up hurting more Americans in the process.

By empowering judges to change the terms of willingly entered into agreements between two private parties simply because one party can no longer afford to comply with the terms would send shockwaves through the credit industry. Contracts would lose meaning and the cost of credit would rise, drying up the credit market for future borrowers.

This would serve to further depress the housing market, which is already heading in the wrong direction.

As I said, it is understandable to want to do something, but doing something for its own sake is not the best way to govern.

The two parties can come to a mutually beneficial arrangement without the coercion of government or the imposition of fiat from the judiciary forcing one side to lose their rights guaranteed under current law. And this can be done without damaging the credit market as a whole.

H.R. 3609, while meaning well, would damage this country and the economy. A better, much less government-intrusive solution is needed here.

I urge you to oppose H.R. 3609.

Sincerely,

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President,  
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