**LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION Sample Language**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FINANCIAL REFORM**

 **TO PROTECT LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND TAXPAYERS**

Whereas, local communities across the United States are struggling in the face of the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, a crisis which has major and continuing impact on families, jobs, businesses, public services, and all institutions;

Whereas, the current financial crisis had its roots in the reckless policies and practices of many segments of the financial services industry, in particular many of the largest Wall Street firms;

Whereas, in the aftermath of the global credit crisis and deepening recession it has become obvious that policies of the financial services industry have unavoidable and massive impact on every sector of the economy, and that the health of the financial services sector is central to the health of the economy as a whole;

Whereas, the recent deep constriction of credit has undermined the ability of local business and governments to maintain payrolls, sustain needed services, make sound investments for their future, and even to take steps to ameliorate the damage and suffering caused by the financial crisis;

Whereas, record home foreclosures – the most since the Great Depression – have forced hundreds of thousands of families out their homes, and caused even deeper drops in home value in neighborhoods across the country;

Whereas, the American Public’s trust has been severely shaken to a point where they do not trust banks, banking regulators and even the government;

Whereas, many national policymakers, economists, and leading figures in business and in the financial services industry itself now recognize that reasonable steps must be taken to avoid a repetition of these events, and that key reforms are needed in the oversight of the financial services industry;

Whereas, a streamlined method for overseeing certain activities, and reporting to the public is clearly required for the industry to correct its abuses and to better serve the interest of investors, consumers, and taxpayers alike;

Whereas, the lack of sufficient regulation has pressured thousands of community banks to struggle against unfair competitive practices, fostering a race to the bottom to the detriment of responsible lending practices;

Whereas, even with the appearance of some signs of economic recovery, it is clear that the deep impact of the recession will felt for many months and can in fact cause even more damage unless the credit crisis eases and investments resume in order to return to economic growth;

Whereas, the pain is very real in the lives of everyday Americans as they struggle to hang on to their homes, their jobs, their health care and their standard of living, we need to restore accountability, fairness and security to our financial system;

Whereas, the Consumer Financial Protection Agency (CFPA) will send the important message to consumers that it is safe to start borrowing again, as Americans need a CFPA with robust authority and sufficient resources to clean up the types of abusive and unfair credit, savings, and payment products that led to financial meltdown;

Whereas, Congress is considering the creation of a federal Consumer Financial Protection Agency (CFPA) mandated to improve fairness and accountability, and consolidate and streamline key watchdog functions now spread over several agencies;

Whereas, the CFPA will be charged with creating a fair playing field in the credit industry, promoting competition, innovation, consumer access and choice, in accordance with principles of sound lending and management, and the CFPA’s jurisdiction over both banks and non-banks will provide consolidated authority for supervision, and enforcement for the most cost-effective oversight of the industry;

**THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the \_\_\_ [name of governing body] supports and urges members of Congress to work together to restore confidence in the financial services industry and assure the new safeguards will be implemented to prevent a recurrence of this catastrophe;

That as time is of the essence, we urge Congress to act expeditiously to approve and send to the President legislation that conforms to the principles stated in the findings of this resolution;

That we specifically urge our Representatives and Senators to support the creation of an independent, stand-alone Consumer Financial Protection Agency that covers all financial products, has rulemaking, primary examination, and enforcement authority, and serves as a federal floor of protection, not a ceiling; and that they will work with their colleagues and the Administration to ensure its authorization and funding in this Congress.