#### IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS

FAIRHOLME FUNDS, INC., et al.,	)	
Plaintiffs,	)	N 12 4650
v.	)	No. 13-465C (Judge Sweeney)
THE UNITED STATES,	)	
Defendant.	)	

#### PLAINTIFFS' PUBLIC, REDACTED MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE MATERIALS <u>DESIGNATED AS "PROTECTED INFORMATION" UNDER SEAL</u>

Plaintiffs Fairholme Funds, Inc., et al. ("Plaintiffs") respectfully move, pursuant to Paragraph 18 of the Protective Order ("P.O.") entered in this action (Doc. 73), for entry of an order (1) authorizing them to file under seal in the D.C. Circuit certain materials disclosed through discovery in this case and identified in this motion, (2) granting them general authority to file protected information under seal in the D.C. Circuit, and (3) authorizing them to file protected information disclosed in this case under seal in *Fairholme Funds, Inc. v. Federal Housing Finance Agency*, No. 13-1053 (D.D.C.).

1. The specific materials Plaintiffs seek authorization to file under seal in *Fairholme Funds, Inc. v. The Federal Housing Finance Agency*, No. 14-5254 (D.C. Cir.), appear in this motion's appendix. The Court has already granted similar relief with respect to two deposition

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 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 consolidated briefs with certain plaintiffs from the other appeals. *See* Order, *Perry Capital LLC v. Lew*, No. 14-5243 (D.C. Cir. May 6, 2015), ECF No. 1551023.

transcripts and a number of documents, *see* Order (July 7, 2015), Doc. 186 ("July 7 Order"); Order (July 9, 2015), Doc. 194 ("July 9 Order"), and it should take the same approach with respect to the highly-relevant materials at issue here.

The producing parties have designated all of the materials in the appendix for withholding from public disclosure under the Protective Order, but Plaintiffs do not believe that any of those materials satisfy the Protective Order's definition of "Protected Information." *See* P.O. ¶ 2; *see* Plaintiffs' Sealed Motion to Remove the "Protected Information" Designations from the Depositions of Edward DeMarco and Mario Ugoletti at 4–10 (June 12, 2015), Doc. 162 ("Depositions Motion") (discussing standard for proper designation of materials as "Protected Information"). Plaintiffs therefore intend soon to initiate the process, under Paragraph 17 of the Protective Order, for removing the Protected Information designations for the appendix materials. Given the procedures governing such Paragraph 17 requests, as well as the current schedule for the briefing of several pending motions seeking such "de-designation" relief, it is likely that that process will consume a considerable amount of time.

Wholly apart from such de-designation requests under Paragraph 17 of the Protective Order, Paragraph 18 of the Order provides a mechanism to allow relevant information produced in this action to be brought to the attention of other courts reviewing issues relating to the Net Worth Sweep, as reflected in this Court's recent orders. This makes perfect sense, since the purpose of the Protective Order is to shield sensitive information from public disclosure, not to conceal relevant facts from another court.

Moreover, requiring Plaintiffs to await the outcome of any dispute over the "Protected Information" status of the materials in the appendix would cause Plaintiffs to suffer severe preju-

dice. As this Court recently observed when it authorized Plaintiffs to file other discovery materials with the D.C. Circuit, "pressing briefing deadlines in [Plaintiffs'] pending appellate case" justify the limited relief Plaintiffs seek here. July 7 Order; July 9 Order. Specifically, Plaintiffs have already filed their opening brief in the D.C. Circuit, with the Defendants' briefs due on September 14 and Plaintiffs' reply brief due on October 26. *See* Order, *Perry Capital LLC v. Lew*, No. 14-5243 (D.C. Cir. July 7, 2015), ECF No. 1561238. Materials produced in discovery in this case and included in the attached appendix undermine, and in some instances completely discredit, important components of the central narrative on which the Government's defense in the D.C. Circuit action was based, and Plaintiffs should be accorded the opportunity to fully apprise the D.C. Circuit of that reality while briefing is still ongoing.

Plaintiffs will not recount here the relevance of every item in the appendix to the issues in dispute in the D.C. Circuit action, but the deposition transcript of former Fannie Mae CFO Susan McFarland is illustrative. As we explained in our motion to de-designate the transcripts of the depositions of Edward DeMarco and Mario Ugoletti, a key point of dispute in the D.C. Circuit action is what the government knew about the potential for Fannie and Freddie to reverse their deferred tax assets valuation allowances at the time of the Net Worth Sweep. *See* Depositions Motion 12. We further explained that Mr. Ugoletti's deposition testimony revealed that he had no basis for stating in a declaration submitted to the D.D.C. that "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 . . . . " *Id.* at 11 (quoting Declaration of Mario Ugoletti ¶ 20, *Perry Capital LLC v. Lew*, No. 13-1025 (D.D.C. Dec. 17, 2013), ECF No. 24-2).

Ms. McFarland's testimony further undermines Mr. Ugoletti's declaration. During her
July 15 deposition, Ms. McFarland testified that

In short, Ms. McFarland's testimony further demonstrates that information the government submitted to the D.D.C. is, at best, incomplete and misleading, if not outright false. To "protect the integrity of the judicial process," Plaintiffs should be able to alert the D.C. Circuit to that fact. *See New Hampshire v. Maine*, 532 U.S. 742, 749 (2001).

2. Plaintiffs have sought to identify in the appendix all remaining discovery materials that they may seek to file with the D.C. Circuit. But Plaintiffs' review of the discovery materials is ongoing, and Plaintiffs may identify additional such materials that they will seek to file with the D.C. Circuit in the coming weeks. Because filing these materials in the D.C. Circuit is appropriate irrespective of whether they have been properly withheld from the public, Plaintiffs

request that the Court issue an order authorizing them to file under seal in the D.C. Circuit any and all materials produced in discovery in this action. Such an order would conserve the resources of both the Court and the parties without risking public disclosure of any Protected Information.

3. Finally, Plaintiffs seek an order authorizing them to file under seal in *Fairholme Funds, Inc. v. Federal Housing Finance Agency*, No. 13-1053 (D.D.C.), any and all materials that this Court at any time authorizes them to file in the appeal of that action in the D.C. Circuit. Plaintiffs plan to file discovery materials they have been authorized to file under seal with the D.C. Circuit in short order. Plaintiffs may also seek to file the same materials with the district court in connection with a motion for relief from judgment on the basis of newly discovered evidence. *See* FED. R. CIV. P. 60(b)(2), 62.1. Plaintiffs should be authorized to file information under seal in the D.D.C. for the same reasons, and to the same extent, as they are authorized to file that same information under seal on appeal of the D.D.C.'s decision in the D.C. Circuit.

#### **CONCLUSION**

For the foregoing reasons, Plaintiffs respectfully request that this Court enter an order (1) authorizing them to file under seal in the D.C. Circuit certain materials disclosed through discovery in this case and identified in this motion, (2) granting them general authority to file protected information under seal in the D.C. Circuit, and (3) authorizing them to file protected information disclosed in this case under seal in *Fairholme Funds, Inc. v. Federal Housing Finance Agency*, No. 13-1053 (D.D.C.).

Date: July 20, 2015

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#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a true and accurate copy of the foregoing was filed under seal via the Court's Electronic Case Filing system on this 20th day of July, 2015, and served upon counsel listed below by electronic mail:

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