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Dear Oaklanders,

As you know, our city has been hit especially hard by predatory lending and the subprime mortgage crisis.

Hundreds of Oakland families and property owners lost their homes and their biggest investments to bank foreclosure last year. This is a disaster for the families involved, and it's a destructive force in our neighborhoods, where vacant properties too often become havens for blight, crime & anti-social behavior.

Across the state, cities such as Riverside and San Bernardino have been hit just as hard by this fiasco.

**However, on January 30, Republican state senators from those cities voted along party lines to defeat an urgency foreclosure relief bill introduced by Senator Don Perata.**

How much worse does this crisis have to get before these legislators decide to act on behalf of California families?

Back in 2001, Oakland passed a progressive ordinance to protect people from emerging predatory lending practices. Unfortunately, the California Supreme Court sided with the banking industry and struck down Oakland's ordinance.

**The [Oakland Fair Lending Coalition](#), which includes my office and other groups working in the community to help people affected by the mortgage crisis, supports good bills that are now before both houses of the state legislature. They include:**

- [AB 512](#) by Assembly Member Sally Lieber (translation of mortgage documents)
- [AB 1830](#) by Assembly Member Ted Lieu (subprime lending reform act)
- [SB 926](#) by Senator Don Perata, which was defeated by only one vote on the Senate floor 10 days ago.

Please click on the above photo to watch a [short video](#) about laws I believe we need to help homeowners in Oakland and across the state. If you agree with me, please **contact your legislators** (and California's [Republican legislators](#)) and tell them to **support real mortgage and foreclosure reform bills now.**

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Russo".

Oakland City Attorney