

Municipalities That Have Supported the HBPA and HR 418



* The Scranton City Council sent a letter of support.

enact the HBPA. Support resolutions have been passed by the city council of Wilkes-Barre, the Luzerne county seat; and the borough councils of Nesquehoning, Berwick, and Jim Thorpe (the county seat of Carbon county). The city council of Scranton, the largest municipality in the district, sent a letter of support to Representative James on Nov. 21, 2007, saying: “It is with great pleasure that Scranton City Council offers their full support for House Bill 418. It is their hope that our Legislators will support this and take emergency action to protect homeowners and banks by enacting a Homeowners & Bank Protection Act. This will be of great importance to the citizens of the City of Scranton to protect their assets during this period of financial unrest that is leading to home foreclosures in record numbers.”

The daily *Hazleton Standard-Speaker*, which serves five counties in northeastern Pennsylvania, reported the city council debate on the HBPA in detail in its Jan. 24 edition: “The City Council voted for a resolution supporting State HR 418, which calls on Congress to enact a Homeowners and Bank Protection Act. The vote was 4 to 1, with [Council member Evelyn] Graham casting the lone ‘no.’” The article quoted at length from HR 418, emphasizing that the “mortgage crisis threatens to set off an economic collapse worse than the Great Depression of the 1930s,” and reported on the interchange between Graham and council members Robert Nilles and Jack Mundie, who presented and seconded the resolution, respectively:

“I do not believe it is the job of the government to protect

banks who made bad choices about to whom to lend money,’ Graham said.

“Mundie said he agreed in general, but added he thought some borrowers had been misled by predatory lenders. . . .

“‘I believe this is a firewall between banks and predatory lenders,’ Nilles said. ‘And it will stop protection of predatory lenders.’”

National Organizing

At the National Mayors’ Conference in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 24, LaRouche PAC (LPAC) organizers found that many mayors were eager for information about the HBPA. “We’re dealing with problems, and we need real solutions,” said Mayor Douglas Palmer of Trenton, N.J., the conference chairman.

In Concord, N.H., the state legislature held hearings on the HBPA on Jan. 22. An LPAC representative testified in support of the resolution. The vote will come next week.

New endorsements came from **Maple Heights, Ohio** (a Cleveland suburb); **St. Louis, Mo.**, and **Port Isabel, Texas**. The resolution was introduced into the City Council of **Lorain, Ohio** on Jan. 23.