

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
October 27, 2009

CONTACT:
Andrea Frye, National People's Action, 773-559-8078
Marcus Mrowka, SEIU, 202-531-0689

**Taxpayers Urge American Bankers Association To Support Common Sense Financial Reforms
That Will Prevent Another Economic Crash**

**THOUSANDS OF TAXPAYERS RALLY OUTSIDE GOLDMAN SACHS AND WELLS FARGO
HEADQUARTERS FOR DAY 2 OF 3 AT THE SHOWDOWN IN CHICAGO**

Chicago – Thousands of taxpayers rally in Chicago for the second day of the Showdown against big banks. This time, along with the American Bankers Association (ABA) Conference, the targets were also Goldman Sachs and Wells Fargo's Chicago headquarters.

After the morning's speech by FDIC Chair Sheila Bair supporting Obama's Consumer Financial Protection Agency, thousands of Showdown participants arrived at Goldman Sachs Chicago headquarters to try and deliver a demand letter.

"Today, Goldman Sachs officials accepted our letter to Lloyd Blankfein and agreed to get it into his hands," said James Mumm, Director of Organizing, National People's Action. "In this letter we demand that Goldman Sachs stop working against the American people and instead start supporting common sense financial reform. We also showed Blankfein how he can be a hero this holiday season by directing Goldman Sachs take some of its projected \$23 billion bonuses this year and redirect it to foreclosure prevention programs that work to keep people in their homes."

Immediately after Goldman Sachs, taxpayers marched to Wells Fargo to publicly scold the bank for its unfair lending practices. To find out more, read ["The Truth About Wells Fargo: Racial Disparities in Lending Practices."](#)

"Wells Fargo is one of the top financiers of predatory pay day lending companies in America," said 81-years old Ferol Wegner of Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement, who lost a third of her pension in the last year. "Their irresponsible lending practices have also led to tens of thousands of foreclosures and vacant buildings in our communities. Wells Fargo is also guilty of targeting African Americans and Latinos with predatory sub-prime loans in our communities."

The Showdown protests continued back at the American Bankers Association conference, where the thousands continue to question why community bankers remain in an association that is lobbying against their interest. Taxpayers continued to demand that the ABA stop lobbying against common sense financial reforms put forth by President Obama.

Later today, they expect to be joined by several thousands more for a march of 8,000 workers, clergy and community leaders, who will send a message to the Congress – **which side are you on** - the side of taxpayers and constituents or the side of lobbyists, big banks, and Wall Street?

Photos and videos of all "Showdown" events and activities are being captured and provided to the media thru the following websites:

- YouTube - <http://www.youtube.com/ABAShowdown>
- Flickr - <http://www.flickr.com/search/?w=all&q=ABAShowdown&m=text>

Also visit: www.SEIU.org, www.StopBankGreed.org, or www.ShowdownInChicago.org for more details.

Groups participating in the three days of mobilizations include: A New Way Forward, AFL-CIO, Action Now, Albany Park Neighborhood Council, Alliance to Develop Power (ADP), Americans for Fairness in Lending, Americans for Financial Reform, ARISE Chicago, Brighton Park Neighborhood Council, Central Illinois Organizing Project (CIOP), Center for Community Change (CCC), Change in Terms, Change to Win, Citizen Action, Chicago Coalition of the Homeless, Communities United for Action (CUFA), Community Voices Heard (CVH), Contra Costa Interfaith Supporting Community Organization (CCISCO), Grassroots Collaborative, Green Party of Nevada, Fuerza Laboral/Power of Workers, Illinois Hunger Coalition, Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement, Jobs with Justice, Gender Just Metanoia Centers, Inc., Michigan People's Action (MPA), MoveOn, National People's Action, Northside Action for Justice, Northside POWER, Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition, People Organized for West Side Renewal (POWER), PUSH Buffalo, Right to the City Alliance, Rights for All People (RAP), Roomdad Productions, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), SEIU Illinois State Council, SOUL, South Austin Coalition Community Council (SACCC), Sunflower Community Action, Syracuse United Neighbors (SUN), Teach Our Children (TOC), The Grassroots Collaborate, UE, UCLA Undergraduate Students Association, Workers United, and Working In Neighborhoods (WIN)

###