

# NATIONAL PEOPLE'S ACTION

November 18, 2009

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## PRESS STATEMENT

### **\$500 Million to Help Small Businesses in 2010 Doesn't Stop Goldman Sachs from Closing Businesses and Foreclosing on Thousands of Americans During the Holidays**

National People's Action (NPA) commends Goldman Sachs for taking an important first step toward fixing the economy that they helped to break. Their announcement about new funds to help small businesses is a welcome development, but this is a drop in the bucket compared to what Lloyd Blankfein and Goldman Sachs could do to stop families from losing their jobs and homes over the holidays and next year. **They can take a bigger step by donating their estimated \$23 billion-dollar bonus pool to help workers and homeowners stabilize the American economy.**

Goldman Sachs owns Litton Loan Servicing LP, who were late to sign up for the Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP), and whose loan modification numbers through October 2009 were poor. Litton has only given trial modifications to 12% of their eligible borrowers with far less given permanent modifications that keep families in their homes for the long-term.

One way to see if Goldman Sachs is serious about helping small businesses is if they use some portion of this \$500 million dollars to help the 150 workers at the Stella D'Oro cookie factory in the Bronx get their jobs back before the holidays. Goldman Sachs is an investor in Lance, Inc., the private equity company that purchased the cookie factory from Brynwood Partners in September and then promptly shuttered the factory with plans to move its operations to a non-union facility in Ohio. As a gesture of goodwill, Goldman Sachs should give these 150 workers their jobs back before Thanksgiving.

In the past month NPA, along with our affiliates and allies have made three attempts to deliver a letter to Goldman Sachs CEO Lloyd Blankfein asking that he donate their 2009 bonuses and compensation pool, which exceeds more than \$500 million, to stop the tidal wave of job losses and foreclosures that they helped spur. These attempts occurred on October 25 in Manhattan by NPA affiliate Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition at the home of Lloyd Blankfein, on October 26, during the second day of the Showdown in Chicago, with a 1,000 person demonstration outside Goldman Sachs' Chicago headquarters and on November 16 where more than 200 people led a spirited demonstration outside Goldman Sachs' DC headquarters. Goldman Sachs officials accepted our demand letters in Chicago and in Washington D.C.

NPA and our affiliates and allies will continue the pressure on Goldman Sachs until they dedicate billions to help workers and homeowners this holiday season.

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National People's Action (NPA) is a network of metropolitan, regional and statewide organizations that build grassroots power. Our purpose is to create a society in which racial and economic justice are realized in all aspects of society, resulting in more equity in work, housing, health, education, finance and other systems central to our well-being. This is part of a series of actions that began in October with a "Showdown in Chicago" where over 5,000 taxpayers converged on the American Bankers Association convention to demand accountability and transparency in the financial system. Visit [WWW.SHOWDOWNINCHICAGO.ORG](http://WWW.SHOWDOWNINCHICAGO.ORG) for more details.