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## LETTERS

### **Fannie & Freddie should have to pay**

To The Item Editor:

Two years ago ... on April 5, 2012, I blew the whistle on the fact that mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac had not been paying the deeds excise tax; a tax that homeowners like you and I are required to pay when we sell our homes. It struck me then, as it still does now, how unfair it was that individual homeowners were required to pay, but that these mortgage giants claim an exemption.

Fannie & Freddie claim an exemp-

tion despite the fact that they have a long history of claiming that they are a private company when they want to grant huge raises to their top executives ... but when it came to paying this tax ... they conveniently take the position that they are a government agency, so therefore exempt!

I have been tracking Fannie and Freddie's recordings since 2012 and this past Friday the taxpayers of Essex County lost ONE million dollars in revenue due to Fannie & Freddie's supposed exemption. I had hoped that when I raised this issue two years ago that someone with

more authority than me in government or the court system would have put a stop to this nonsense, but sadly this has not happened.

I will continue to track Fannie & Freddie's sales and let you know how much we as taxpayers are losing every year. These losses occur in all 21 Registries of Deeds in Massachusetts and they total at least TEN million a year! So when you hear that we need to raise revenue, tell them to start collecting from Fannie and Freddie first.

**John L. O'Brien**  
**Southern Essex**  
**Register of Deeds**