

From: Pollock, Andrew (First Franklin)
To: +GMI (FF-First Franklin)
Sent: Wed Mar 05 13:33:51 2008
Subject: A Message to First Franklin Employees

A message from Andrew Pollock, President & CEO of First Franklin

As announced earlier today, the executive management of Merrill Lynch, First Franklin and NationPoint have decided to close all wholesale and retail loan origination operations.

This decision was reached after the consideration of many options and strategies for our company. Unfortunately, today's industry conditions and the lack of investor interest in purchasing the mortgages we have traditionally originated left us with no other choice.

The decision means that most First Franklin employees will lose their jobs – undoubtedly the most difficult professional decision that I have ever made.

The First Franklin organization has a deep 27-year history that did not happen by chance and was built through the dedication and commitment of thousands of loyal employees. As members of First Franklin, we have been through many critical business crossroads, but at the end we have always remained resilient. I wish to express nothing but the utmost sense of pride and gratitude for what you have done in the face of an extremely challenged mortgage marketplace.

Some employees working on issues related to prior mortgage originations – specifically risk management, legal and loss mitigation – will continue in their jobs and do the work necessary related to those issues.

These past ten months have been full of uncertainty and challenges. I wish we could have done more to make this time less stressful for everyone. Unfortunately, the answers we hoped for and expectations for a market recovery didn't materialize.

I have always considered each and every First Franklin employee to be uniquely resourceful. I have every confidence that whether you are part of the team that will remain or one of those who will leave that you will embrace and thrive at your next opportunity.

I thank you for your tireless efforts. I wish you the very best in the years to come.

Yours sincerely,

Andy