

United States House of Representatives
Committee on Financial Services
Washington, D.C. 20515

April 2, 2014

The Honorable Jeb Hensarling
House Committee on Financial Services
2129 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patrick McHenry
House Committee on Financial Services
Subcommittee on Oversight and
Investigations
2129 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Hensarling and Subcommittee Chairman McHenry:

We remain concerned with the process and partisan manner in which the April 2nd Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on “Allegations of Discrimination and Retaliation within the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)” was empaneled and organized. The nature of the allegations directed at officials and personnel within the CFPB are very serious and troubling. As such, we request a hearing with the CFPB Director and the Director of the CFPB’s Office of Minority and Women Inclusion (OMWI), which will allow Members on both sides of the aisle a more appropriate forum to evaluate the CFPB’s personnel policies and practices – and discuss these issues with its senior management.

As you have made clear your intentions to proceed with the hearing as scheduled, we believe it is essential that you immediately announce a follow-up, full Committee hearing, in which senior officials from the CFPB are made available to testify. In scheduling this follow-up hearing, we would ask that you not invite witnesses who may be involved in a confidential or on-going compliant or grievance resolution process, to avoid creating a legal basis for senior officials at CFPB to decline to testify.

We remain very concerned with claims of employment discrimination at the CFPB. Prior to the Majority’s scheduling a hearing on what we were led to believe was a discussion of the allegations outlined in the March 6th *American Banker* article, we requested the CFPB’s Office of Inspector General to conduct an official review of the agency’s personnel practices and policies. We sent similar letters to several other federal financial agencies under our Committee’s jurisdiction. We welcome a thorough investigation of discriminatory personnel practices within our financial regulatory agencies, but are concerned by the Majority’s unusual focus on the specifics of an individual, unresolved matter.

We strongly urge you to make good on your commitment to “ensure mistreatment of employees is not tolerated at CFPB,” by agreeing to notice a follow-up hearing with appropriate

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witnesses and scope, as outlined above. In addition, we stand ready to work in a bipartisan manner to conduct a comprehensive and thorough investigation of potential discriminatory practices within all of the federal financial agencies under our Committee's jurisdiction.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Maxine Waters
Ranking Member
Committee on Financial Services



The Honorable Al Green
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigations