



Americans for Financial Reform
1629 K St NW, 10th Floor, Washington, DC, 20006
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December 7, 2011

RE: Nomination of Richard Cordray to head the CFPB

Dear Senator,

We are writing on behalf of the members of Americans for Financial Reform and the other organizations listed, representing a wide variety of Americans from all walks of life, to urge that you support the nomination of Richard Cordray, the highly-regarded and well-qualified former Ohio Attorney General, to be the first director of the new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB).

We are pleased that Attorney General Cordray's qualifications for the position have been recognized by all; he is an outstanding nominee and we believe his confirmation is necessary to make the agency's promise that it will "make markets for consumer financial products and services work for Americans" a reality.

On the other hand, we have been extremely troubled by some Senators' positions that regardless of his qualifications they will oppose General Cordray's nomination, and even oppose a vote on that nomination, until and unless the legislation establishing the new CFPB is first drastically modified.

Reasonable minds can differ about new agencies, but this is too important a time to allow efforts to manipulate the process for purposes apart from the confirmation to disrupt the Consumer Bureau's ability to do its job. In fact, in the absence of a director, the CFPB's powers over banks remain broad, but its authority over their non-bank competitors is limited. This unlevel playing field serves payday lenders, debt collectors, unaccountable credit reporting agencies, mortgage companies and other non-banks well, making it too easy for them to continue to engage in deceptive and abusive practices. And it stands in the way of establishing fair rules of the road that apply to all players in the marketplace, which undermines good practices at community banks and larger depository institutions as well.

The absence of a director also deprives the CFPB of leadership, further limiting its authority. While agencies may sometimes be led by interim directors, it is critical that Congress give a new agency its best chance to succeed, not hamper or hobble it by depriving it of a full leadership team.

Worse, as the recession exacerbated by the unfair bank practices that led to establishment of this landmark agency continues, consumers continue to be harmed by unfair financial practices that the CFPB cannot yet reach. These practices include unfair payday lender terms that trap consumers in a cycle of debt, deceptive private student lending by schools that make promises of jobs that they do not keep but saddle students with mountains of debt anyway, and debt buyers that use robo-calling to collect debts that are no longer owed or were never owed.

We call on all Senators to review the nomination of Richard Cordray on the merits and swiftly move it to a vote.

Failing to confirm a nominee so broadly agreed to be qualified and able for the job needlessly puts consumers, and the economy as a whole, at risk. Leaving the CFPB without a director is unconscionable; it puts consumers who are already suffering through an economic recession caused by a lack of financial regulations in danger of further harm. Leaving the agency without all the tools it needs to not only protect consumers, but to protect companies that compete fairly, leaves both at the mercy of unregulated, predatory firms. And it leaves our whole economy in danger of further problems caused by abusive lending at a particularly vulnerable time. That is the wrong way to go.

We urge you to prioritize effective action to protect consumers and the economy, and to vote to confirm Richard Cordray to direct the CFPB. It is the right thing to do.

Sincerely,

Accountable America

AFL-CIO

AFSCME

Alliance for a Just Society

America Votes

American Federation of Government Employees Women and Fair Practices

American Sustainable Business Council

Americans for Financial Reform

Asian American Justice Center, member of Asian American Center for Advancing Justice

Asian Community Development Corporation

Asian Economic Development Association

Asian Law Alliance

Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance & APALA Education Fund

Asian Services in Action

Black Youth Vote!

Business for Shared Prosperity

Campaign for America's Future

Center for Media and Democracy

Consumer Action
Consumer Watchdog
Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety
Consumers Union
Cuban American National Council, Inc.
Demos
Greenlining Institute
Hmong American Partnership
Hmong National Development
HomeFree USA
Japanese American Citizens League
Korean Resource Center
Main Street Alliance
MoveOn Political Action
NAACP
NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Inc.
National Association of Consumer Advocates
National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development (CAPACD)
National Coalition on Black Civic Participation
National Community Reinvestment Coalition
National Consumers League
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council of La Raza
National Education Association
National Fair Housing Alliance
National Hispanic Council on Aging
National People's Action
New Bottom Line
OCA
PICO National Network
SAFER: The Economists' Committee for Stable, Accountable, Fair and Efficient Financial Reform
SEIU
The Institute for College Access & Success and its Project on Student Debt
The International Brotherhood of Teamsters
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
U.S. PIRG
United Auto Workers (UAW)
United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries
United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW)
US SIF: The Forum for Sustainable and Responsible Investment
USAction

Vietnamese American Initiative for Development

State and Local Organizations:

Advocates for Basic Legal Equality
Alabama Appleseed Center for Law & Justice
Alaska PIRG
Albany County Rural Housing Alliance, Inc.
Alliance to Develop Power Massachusetts
ANHD Inc. (New York City)
Arizona Fair Housing Center
Arizona PIRG
Austin Tenants Council
Better Neighborhoods, Inc.
Beyond Housing
BWICA Educational Fund, Inc.
California Reinvestment Coalition
CALPIRG
Center for Fair Housing
Central Alabama Fair Housing Center
Chhaya Community Development Corporation
Chicago Area Fair Housing Alliance
Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Inc.
Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc.
Chinese Community Center
Citizen Action of New York
Citizen Action of Wisconsin
Citizen Action/Illinois
Civic Center Barrio Housing Corporation
Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition.
Communities United for Action
Community Housing Resources of Arizona
Community Reinvestment Association of North Carolina
Connecticut Citizen Action Group
Connecticut Fair Housing Center
Connecticut PIRG
CoPIRG
Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement
Creating Assets, Savings & Hope (CASH) Buffalo
DC 37 AFSCME (New York) Municipal Employees Legal Services
Del Norte Neighborhood Development Corporation

East LA Community Corporation
Elder Law Clinic, St. John's University School of Law (Queens, NY)
Empire Justice Center
Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People
Fair Housing Advocates Association
Fair Housing Center of Greater Boston
Fair Housing Center of Metropolitan Detroit
Fair Housing Center of Nebraska and Iowa
Fair Housing Center of Northern Alabama
Fair Housing Center of the Greater Palm Beaches
Fair Housing Center of Washington
Fair Housing Center of West Michigan
Fair Housing Contact Service
Fair Housing Continuum
Fair Housing Council of Central New York
Fair Housing Council of Orange County
Fair Housing Council of San Fernando Valley
Fair Housing of Marin
Fifth Avenue Committee (Brooklyn, NY)
Florida Consumer Action Network
Florida PIRG
Genesee Co-op FCU
Georgia PIRG
Georgia Rural Urban Summit
Greater Houston Fair Housing Center
Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center
Greater Rochester Community Reinvestment Coalition
Hawaiian Community Assets
Heights Community Congress
Homes on the Hill CDC
HOPE Fair Housing Center
Housing Action Illinois
Housing Opportunities Made Equal
Housing Opportunities Made Equal of Virginia
Housing Opportunities Project for Excellence
Housing Research & Advocacy Center
Housing Rights Center
IIRON
Illinois People's Action
Illinois PIRG
INPIRG

Iowa Citizen Action Network
Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement
Iowa PIRG
Law Foundation of Silicon Valley
Lawrence CommunityWorks, Inc.
Long Island Housing Services
Lower East Side People's Federal Credit Union
Mahoning Valley Organizing Collaborative
Maine People's Alliance
Margert Community Corporation (Far Rockaway, NY)
Maryland PIRG
Massachusetts Communities Action Network
Massachusetts Fair Housing Center
MASSPIRG
Metro Fair Housing Services, Inc.
Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council
MFY Legal Services, Inc.
Miami Valley Fair Housing Center
Michigan Citizen Action
Missouri Progressive Vote Coalition
MontPIRG
MoPIRG
NCPIRG
NEDAP
Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater Cleveland, Ohio
Neighbors Helping Neighbors
New Hampshire Citizens Alliance for Action
New Jersey Citizen Action
New York StateWide Senior Action Council
New Yorkers for Responsible Lending
NHPIRG
NJPIRG
NMPIRG
North Texas Fair Housing Center
Northside P.O.W.E.R
Northwest Fair Housing Alliance
Northwest Ohio Development
NYPIRG
Oak Park Regional Housing Center
Ocean State Action
Office of Fair Housing & Consumer Affairs

Ohio PIRG
Orange County Community Housing Corporation
Oregon Action
Oregon PIRG (OSPIRG)
Parodneck Foundation (New York City)
Penn Action
PennPIRG
PIRGIM (PIRG in Michigan)
Pratt Area Community Council (Brooklyn, NY)
Progressive Maryland
ProgressOhio
Public Citizen
PUSH Buffalo (NY)
Retail Action Project (New York City)
RIPIRG
Sacramento Housing Alliance
Sacramento Mutual Housing Association
Savannah-Chatham County Fair Housing Council
South Suburban Housing Center
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center
Syracuse United Neighbors
Tennessee Citizen Action
Tennessee Fair Housing Council
TexPIRG
The Fair Housing Council of San Diego
The Financial Clinic of New York City
Toledo Fair Housing Center
United Action for Idaho
Virginia Organizing
VOCAL-NY
VPIRG
Washington Community Action Network
WashPIRG
West Virginia Citizen Action Group
Western New York Law Center
WISPIRG
Woodstock Institute
Working in Neighborhoods
Yolo Mutual Housing Association
Young Invincibles

Following are the partners of Americans for Financial Reform.

All the organizations support the overall principles of AFR and are working for an accountable, fair and secure financial system. Not all of these organizations work on all of the issues covered by the coalition or have signed on to every statement.

- A New Way Forward
- AFL-CIO
- AFSCME
- Alliance For Justice
- Americans for Democratic Action, Inc
- American Income Life Insurance
- American Sustainable Business Council
- Americans United for Change
- Business for Shared Prosperity
- Campaign for America's Future
- Campaign Money
- Center for Digital Democracy
- Center for Economic and Policy Research
- Center for Economic Progress
- Center for Media and Democracy
- Center for Responsible Lending
- Center for Justice and Democracy
- Center of Concern
- Change to Win
- Clean Yield Asset Management
- Coastal Enterprises Inc.
- Color of Change
- Common Cause
- Communications Workers of America
- Community Development Transportation Lending Services
- Consumer Action
- Consumer Association Council
- Consumers for Auto Safety and Reliability
- Consumer Federation of America
- Consumer Watchdog
- Consumers Union
- Corporation for Enterprise Development
- CREDO Mobile
- CTW Investment Group
- Demos
- Economic Policy Institute
- Essential Action
- Greenlining Institute
- Good Business International

- HNMA Funding Company
- Home Actions
- Housing Counseling Services
- Information Press
- Institute for Global Communications
- Institute for Policy Studies: Global Economy Project
- International Brotherhood of Teamsters
- Institute of Women's Policy Research
- Krull & Company
- Laborers' International Union of North America
- Lake Research Partners
- Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
- Move On
- NASCAT
- National Association of Consumer Advocates
- National Association of Neighborhoods
- National Community Reinvestment Coalition
- National Consumer Law Center (on behalf of its low-income clients)
- National Consumers League
- National Council of La Raza
- National Fair Housing Alliance
- National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions
- National Housing Trust
- National Housing Trust Community Development Fund
- National NeighborWorks Association
- National Nurses United
- National People's Action
- National Council of Women's Organizations
- Next Step
- OMB Watch
- OpenTheGovernment.org
- Opportunity Finance Network
- Partners for the Common Good
- PICO National Network
- Progress Now Action
- Progressive States Network
- Poverty and Race Research Action Council
- Public Citizen
- Sargent Shriver Center on Poverty Law
- SEIU
- State Voices
- Taxpayer's for Common Sense
- The Association for Housing and Neighborhood Development
- The Fuel Savers Club
- The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
- The Seminal
- TICAS
- U.S. Public Interest Research Group

- UNITE HERE
- United Food and Commercial Workers
- United States Student Association
- USAction
- Veris Wealth Partners
- Western States Center
- We the People Now
- Woodstock Institute
- World Privacy Forum
- UNET
- Union Plus
- Unitarian Universalist for a Just Economic Community

List of State and Local Signers

- Alaska PIRG
- Arizona PIRG
- Arizona Advocacy Network
- Arizonans For Responsible Lending
- Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development NY
- Audubon Partnership for Economic Development LDC, New York NY
- BAC Funding Consortium Inc., Miami FL
- Beech Capital Venture Corporation, Philadelphia PA
- California PIRG
- California Reinvestment Coalition
- Century Housing Corporation, Culver City CA
- CHANGER NY
- Chautauqua Home Rehabilitation and Improvement Corporation (NY)
- Chicago Community Loan Fund, Chicago IL
- Chicago Community Ventures, Chicago IL
- Chicago Consumer Coalition
- Citizen Potawatomi CDC, Shawnee OK
- Colorado PIRG
- Coalition on Homeless Housing in Ohio
- Community Capital Fund, Bridgeport CT
- Community Capital of Maryland, Baltimore MD
- Community Development Financial Institution of the Tohono O'odham Nation, Sells AZ
- Community Redevelopment Loan and Investment Fund, Atlanta GA
- Community Reinvestment Association of North Carolina
- Community Resource Group, Fayetteville A
- Connecticut PIRG
- Consumer Assistance Council
- Cooper Square Committee (NYC)

- Cooperative Fund of New England, Wilmington NC
- Corporacion de Desarrollo Economico de Ceiba, Ceiba PR
- Delta Foundation, Inc., Greenville MS
- Economic Opportunity Fund (EOF), Philadelphia PA
- Empire Justice Center NY
- Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People (ESOP), Cleveland OH
- Enterprises, Inc., Berea KY
- Fair Housing Contact Service OH
- Federation of Appalachian Housing
- Fitness and Praise Youth Development, Inc., Baton Rouge LA
- Florida Consumer Action Network
- Florida PIRG
- Funding Partners for Housing Solutions, Ft. Collins CO
- Georgia PIRG
- Grow Iowa Foundation, Greenfield IA
- Homewise, Inc., Santa Fe NM
- Idaho Nevada CDFI, Pocatello ID
- Idaho Chapter, National Association of Social Workers
- Illinois PIRG
- Impact Capital, Seattle WA
- Indiana PIRG
- Iowa PIRG
- Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement
- JobStart Chautauqua, Inc., Mayville NY
- La Casa Federal Credit Union, Newark NJ
- Low Income Investment Fund, San Francisco CA
- Long Island Housing Services NY
- MaineStream Finance, Bangor ME
- Maryland PIRG
- Massachusetts Consumers' Coalition
- MASSPIRG
- Massachusetts Fair Housing Center
- Michigan PIRG
- Midland Community Development Corporation, Midland TX
- Midwest Minnesota Community Development Corporation, Detroit Lakes MN
- Mile High Community Loan Fund, Denver CO
- Missouri PIRG
- Mortgage Recovery Service Center of L.A.
- Montana Community Development Corporation, Missoula MT
- Montana PIRG
- Neighborhood Economic Development Advocacy Project
- New Hampshire PIRG
- New Jersey Community Capital, Trenton NJ
- New Jersey Citizen Action
- New Jersey PIRG
- New Mexico PIRG
- New York PIRG
- New York City Aids Housing Network

- New Yorkers for Responsible Lending
- NOAH Community Development Fund, Inc., Boston MA
- Nonprofit Finance Fund, New York NY
- Nonprofits Assistance Fund, Minneapolis M
- North Carolina PIRG
- Northside Community Development Fund, Pittsburgh PA
- Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing, Columbus OH
- Ohio PIRG
- OligarchyUSA
- Oregon State PIRG
- Our Oregon
- PennPIRG
- Piedmont Housing Alliance, Charlottesville VA
- Michigan PIRG
- Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center, CO
- Rhode Island PIRG
- Rural Community Assistance Corporation, West Sacramento CA
- Rural Organizing Project OR
- San Francisco Municipal Transportation Authority
- Seattle Economic Development Fund
- Community Capital Development
- TexPIRG
- The Fair Housing Council of Central New York
- The Loan Fund, Albuquerque NM
- Third Reconstruction Institute NC
- Vermont PIRG
- Village Capital Corporation, Cleveland OH
- Virginia Citizens Consumer Council
- Virginia Poverty Law Center
- War on Poverty - Florida
- WashPIRG
- Westchester Residential Opportunities Inc.
- Wigamig Owners Loan Fund, Inc., Lac du Flambeau WI
- WISPIRG

Small Businesses

- Blu
- Bowden-Gill Environmental
- Community MedPAC
- Diversified Environmental Planning
- Hayden & Craig, PLLC
- Mid City Animal Hospital, Pheonix AZ
- The Holographic Repatterning Institute at Austin
- UNET

