

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 28, 2013

Mr. Richard Cordray
Director
Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
1700 G Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20552

Dear Director Cordray:

As Members of the House Committee on Financial Services, we recently learned that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) is engaged in enforcement activity related to alleged disparate impact in auto lending. As representatives of both consumers and small businesses (auto dealers), we want to continue our work with you to ensure that lending practices in the auto, mortgage, and credit card industries are fair and equitable. Consumers must be able to shop for credit without fear of discriminatory practices, and the consistent enforcement of anti-discrimination statutes is an essential part of assuring that consumers have access to affordable credit. This is especially important in the area of auto finance, because mobility promotes individual economic empowerment. As you know, the opportunities to maintain a job and find affordable housing are dramatically improved if a person has access to transportation. The overwhelming majority of all vehicle purchases require financing; therefore, without access to affordable credit, vehicle ownership is typically out of reach for millions of American families.

One of the roles of this Committee is to ensure that consumers have access to credit based upon fair lending practices so that they can meet their basic transportation needs and provide for their families. We must also work to ensure that credit markets function competitively and efficiently so that our small businesses can grow. Accordingly, we respectfully ask that you provide us as Members of Congress with any and all background information about the origination of and investigation into alleged practices within the auto lending industry. We also would like to learn more about the allegations stemming from these investigations and the methodology the CFPB has adopted to determine whether fair lending violations exist. Specifically, we would like to know the method the Bureau is using to identify different groups of consumers, the factors it is holding constant to ensure its findings of pricing differentials are attributable to a consumer's background, and the numerical threshold at which the Bureau determines that disparate impact is present. Further, we would like to learn more about the compliance expectations contained in recent guidance the CFPB issued to indirect auto lenders on dealer compensation policies.

We would appreciate your response to this letter by June 7, 2013. We look forward to working with you in our effort to provide all Americans access to affordable and fair auto financing within a competitive marketplace.

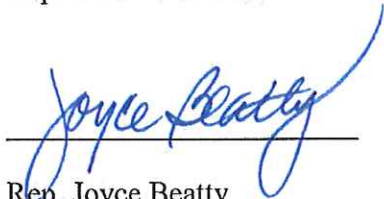
Sincerely,



Rep. Terri A. Sewell



Rep. David Scott



Rep. Joyce Beatty



Rep. Daniel T. Kildee



Rep. Lacy Clay



Rep. Patrick Murphy



Rep. John K. Delaney



Rep. Gary C. Peters



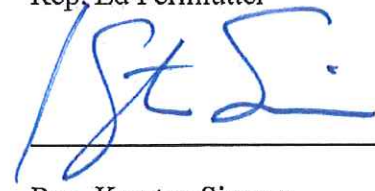
Rep. Bill Foster



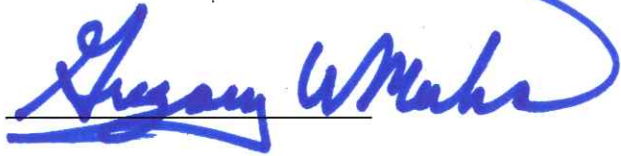
Rep. Ed Perlmutter



Rep. Denny Heck



Rep. Kyrsten Sinema



Gregory W Meeks

Rep. Gregory W. Meeks