

Acting Director Mulvaney
Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
1700 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20552

May 18, 2018

Dear Acting Director Mulvaney,

As Chair of the Consumer Advisory Board (CAB) of the Bureau, I wanted to let you know that I am looking forward to our scheduled in-person CAB meeting on June 6 and 7, 2018. As you know, the CAB is a committed group of public servants, dedicated to fulfilling our statutory obligations as advisors to the Bureau. It is an honor to serve on the CAB, and I take my responsibilities as Chair seriously. I serve with deep passion and dedication to fulfill my commitment to the Bureau, to my fellow CAB members, and to the American people.

The CAB looks forward to have the opportunity to meet in person. You can imagine my surprise, then, when I heard from other CAB members that they were receiving emails from the Bureau regarding travel arrangements for the June 6-7 meeting, indicating that the meeting may be canceled. I hope this is a misunderstanding. Canceling the meeting would open up deep concerns regarding both the value that the Bureau places on the CAB, as well as compliance with legal obligations related to the CAB and CAB service.

The purpose of the CAB, specified under Section 1014(a) of the Dodd-Frank Act, is to “advise and consult with the Bureau in the exercise of its functions under the Federal consumer financial laws and to provide information on emerging practices in the consumer financial products and services industry, including regional trends, concerns, and other relevant information.” 12 U.S.C. § 5494. Per statute and per the CAB Charter, we are required to have at least two in-person meetings each year. To date, in 2018, we have had no in-person meetings. These in-person meetings are not only statutorily required, they are integral to us fulfilling our obligations to the Bureau.

Though CAB members were disappointed at the cancellation of our scheduled meeting for February 28 to March 1, 2018, as well as the cancellation of a subsequently scheduled April meeting, we have continued to work hard to offer feedback and advice to the Bureau on major issues before the agency, engaging in our subcommittee work, while also preparing for our statutorily required in-person meeting. Thus, the June 6-7 meeting is important not only because it satisfies a legal requirement, but also because it gives CAB members the opportunity to share, in-person, the work that we have been doing in support of the Bureau.

The CAB is a committed group of devoted volunteers. We take very seriously our oath to serve our country in our capacity as CAB members. Hardships faced by struggling American families drive my commitment to be a part of the CAB, and I know I also speak for many of my colleagues in saying that we honor our duty to serve the Bureau and see the upcoming in-person meeting as an essential part of complying with the law and fulfilling our commitment to the American people. I look forward to your response, confirming our June 6-7, 2018 meeting and including more clarity and detail regarding how the Bureau plans to fulfill its statutory obligation to meet in-person with the CAB.

Sincerely,



Ann Baddour, Chair, Consumer Advisory Board
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