

22 August 2018

Honorable Members
Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senators,

We, the undersigned consumer, faith and civil rights organizations, urge you to oppose any nominee for the Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau who does not have an extensive background in consumer protection law and does not support the Bureau's mission of protecting consumers.

In fulfilling its vital mission to protect consumers from fraud, deception, and abusive financial products and practices, the Consumer Bureau needs a Director who has a deep understanding of the myriad issues, debates and trends impacting consumers and their financial transactions. To be an effective advocate for the rights of regular Americans against the predations of big banks and unscrupulous market actors, the Consumer Bureau must be led by a director with expertise in consumer protection issues and the statutes that fall under its purview as well as have a record of standing up for the public interest. The Director of the Consumer Bureau is tasked with making consequential decisions that could mean the difference between working families achieving the American dream or falling into financial ruin. The person who serves in this crucial position must have a proven track record that gives consumers confidence that the Bureau has their best interests at heart.

Along those lines, any nominee for the Director of the CFPB must be unequivocal in their commitment to the mission of the Consumer Bureau, which can be summed up this way: protecting consumers in the financial marketplace.

Congress has tasked the Bureau with safeguarding consumers from deceptive and unfair financial practices and in order to meet this mandate, Congress must insist that the Director of the Bureau have a record of standing up for consumers, the expertise necessary to be effective, and the compassion to fight for the rights and livelihood of regular Americans every day on the job. Any nominee who does not exemplify these basic qualifications to serve as Director of the CFPB must be rejected.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

Allied Progress
American Association for Justice
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
NAACP
National Association of Social Workers

National Consumer Law Center (on behalf of
its low-income clients)
National Consumers League
National Fair Housing Alliance
Public Justice Center
U.S. PIRG

State and Local Groups continue on next page

State and Local Groups

Arizona PIRG
Arkansans Against Abusive Payday Lending
CALPIRG
Public Law Center (Orange County, CA)
COPIRG
Connecticut Legal Services, Inc.
ConnPIRG
Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia
Florida PIRG
Georgia PIRG
Illinois PIRG
Indiana PIRG
Iowa PIRG
Kentucky Equal Justice Center
Maryland PIRG
MASSPIRG
PIRG in Michigan (PIRGIM)
Mississippi Center for Justice
MoPIRG
Empire Justice Center (NY)
Sisters of St. Dominic of Caldwell, NJ
NJPIRG
NHPIRG
NMPIRG
NCPIRG
Ohio PIRG
Oregon PIRG (OSPIRG)
PennPIRG
RIPIRG
TexPIRG
Virginia Citizens Consumers Council
WASHPIRG
WISPIRG