



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

March 14, 2011

Senator Ted Kaufman, Chairman  
Congressional Oversight Panel  
732 North Capitol Street, NW  
Room C-320  
Washington, DC 20401

Dear Senator Kaufman:

I am writing in response to your letter of March 7 regarding the redesign of the Department of the Treasury's websites, and in particular, the website for the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP), [FinancialStability.gov](http://FinancialStability.gov).

Your letter notes that our website redesign project inadvertently broke numerous hyperlinks from the Congressional Oversight Panel's (COP) past oversight reports. We regret the inconvenience to the Panel and to those that rely on its reports.

The redesign of the [FinancialStability.gov](http://FinancialStability.gov) website was part of a Treasury-wide website modernization project intended to make all Treasury websites more accessible, user-friendly and informative. The website was created to provide the public with information about TARP and ensure that we implement TARP programs in as transparent a manner as possible. Thus, we have posted thousands of documents on [FinancialStability.gov](http://FinancialStability.gov), enabling the public to easily access information about the programs. [FinancialStability.gov](http://FinancialStability.gov) was not, however, created as a records management system and we add and remove content as appropriate. For example, to make the site as clear and useful as possible, we may remove legal documents that have been superseded by more recent contracts or agreements, or we may remove documents that are no longer relevant or applicable to TARP programs.

Nevertheless, we have worked hard to ensure that your staff has all of the new links and documents needed to complete the archiving of COP's records. Soon after COP staff first expressed concerns about the new website, I made my staff available to explain our process for the website changes. To facilitate the identification of old and new hyperlinks, our technical experts sent a master spreadsheet that mapped the majority of these links from the old site to the new site. Thereafter, we worked with COP staff to provide them with each of the new links they requested, and, in the case of any removed documents, we provided PDFs to ensure all documents cited in COP's reports were available. It is our understanding that at this point all problematic links have been addressed.

You point out that we could have uniformly utilized redirect notices as was recommended by the Interagency Committee on Government Information in a report issued in 2004. We have already implemented a number of changes to the site, including a new page explaining site changes, an

updated redirect notification, and expanded language on error pages explaining the redesign and offering ways for people to find the information they are looking for. We will be making additional adjustments in the near future.

We are always open to suggestions on how we can do a better job in using technology to keep the public informed, and we appreciate your input on this matter. Thank you again for your letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Timothy G. Massad". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Timothy G. Massad  
Acting Assistant Secretary for Financial Stability

Cc: Mr. Damon Silvers  
Mr. J. Mark McWatters  
Mr. Richard Neiman  
Dr. Kenneth Troske