



Americans for Financial Reform
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September 1, 2011

Senate must confirm well qualified former Ohio Attorney General Rich Cordray as CFPB Director

Dear Senator,

We write on behalf of the members of Americans for Financial Reform (AFR) and the other undersigned consumer, community, labor, senior, investor and other civic organizations to urge your swift confirmation of Richard Cordray to be director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Until you act, or the President makes a recess appointment, the new CFPB does not gain its full authority to protect consumers, servicemembers and seniors from unfair practices by banks, payday lenders and other financial firms.

As Attorney General of Ohio, Richard Cordray was known as a strong, but fair, enforcer who worked on a non-partisan basis to protect the people of Ohio. His nomination has been praised by former U.S. Senator Mike DeWine, who defeated him in 2010. In a recent floor speech, Senator Sherrod Brown noted that Cordray also “worked closely with Ohio banks, which are supporting his nomination to advocate the Consumer Protection Bureau because he played it straight and fair.”

Deceptive and abusive mortgage lending – allowed to continue by the existing regulators – was a fundamental cause of the financial crisis, and of the worst recession since the Great Depression. In response, Congress created the consumer bureau – so we will have a cop on the beat with fair play and the public interest as its first priority.

Under current law, the bureau will be fully accountable to the American people, to Congress, the judiciary, and the President. It will have sufficient freedom of action to be effective, but it is also already more constrained – by oversight from other regulators and by special review by small business representatives – than any other financial agency.

But to gain its full authority to protect consumers, it needs a confirmed director. General Cordray has been fair to banks and other firms that play fair, but a tough enforcer to those that do not. It is time for the Senate to put politics behind and put consumers, servicemembers, students and seniors first. We urge you to vote to confirm Richard Cordray to direct the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Accountable America
AFL-CIO

AFSCME
Alliance for a Just Society
American Federation of Government Employees
Americans for Financial Reform
Campaign for America's Future
Center for Digital Democracy
CNC
Consumer Action
Consumer Watchdog
Consumers Union
Dēmos
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU)
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
Japanese American Citizens League
Main Street Alliance
NAACP
National Association of Consumer Advocates
National Association of Neighborhoods
National Community Reinvestment Coalition
National Consumers League
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council of La Raza
National Fair Housing Alliance
National Hispanic Media Coalition
National Institute for Latino Policy
National Organization for Women
National People's Action
People for the American Way
Public Advocates, Inc
Public Citizen
SAFER
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
SER-Jobs for Progress National Inc.
The Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS) and its Project on Student Debt
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
UNITE HERE
United Auto Workers (UAW)
United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW)
U.S. PIRG
US SIF: The Forum for Sustainable and Responsible Investment
USAction

State and Local Organizations:

Arizona PIRG
Arkansas Community Organizations
California Reinvestment Coalition
CALPIRG
Chhaya CDC, Jackson Heights, NY
Community Legal Services Inc., Philadelphia, PA
Community Organizations in Action
Community Reinvestment Association of North Carolina
CoPIRG
Delaware Community Reinvestment Action Council, Inc. (DCRAC)
District Council 37 Municipal Employees Legal Services, New York City
Empire Justice Center, New York State
Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People
Fair Housing Council of Central New York, Syracuse, NY
Florida PIRG
Genesee Co-op FCU, Rochester, NY
Georgia PIRG
Illinois PIRG
INPIRG
Iowa PIRG
Long Island Housing Services, Inc., Bohemia, NY
Lower East Side People's Federal Credit Union, New York, NY
Maryland PIRG
Massachusetts Communities Action Network
MASSPIRG
MFY Legal Services, Inc.
MoPIRG
NCPIRG
Neighborhood Economic Development Advocacy Project (NEDAP)
New Jersey Citizen Action
NHPIRG
NJPIRG
NMPIRG
NYPIRG
Ohio PIRG
PathStone, Rochester, NY
PennPIRG
PIRGIM (PIRG in Michigan)
PUP: Philadelphia Unemployment Project
RIPIRG
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law, Chicago, IL

TexPIRG

VPIRG

WashPIRG

Will Will Win, Inc. Framingham, MA

WISPIRG

Woodstock Institute, Chicago, IL

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
- AARP
- AFL-CIO
- AFSCME
- Alliance For Justice
- Americans for Democratic Action, Inc
- American Income Life Insurance
- Americans United for Change
- 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 People's Action
- National Council of Women's Organizations
- Next Step
- OMB Watch
- OpenTheGovernment.org
- Opportunity Finance Network
- Partners for the Common Good
- PICO
- 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

Partial 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
- 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

