Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

July 22, 2010

President Barack Obama The White House Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We write to ask that you nominate Professor Elizabeth Warren as Director of the newly created Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB).

A consumer financial protection body was Ms. Warren's idea, first expressed in a journal article in 2007, and we can think of no better person to be its first Director. As a professor at Harvard Law School since 1982, she has risen to national prominence in the area of economics of the middle class. Even before the financial crisis, Professor Warren was warning of risky financial products and of lenders who "deliberately built tricks and traps into some credit products so they can ensnare families in a cycle of high-cost debt." As Chair of the Congressional Oversight Panel she has been an essential voice of reason in the wake of the financial crisis--and an ardent supporter of the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

In her original conception, Ms. Warren modeled the Consumer Finance Protection body after the Consumer Product Safety Commission, describing the main functions of the agency "to establish guidelines for consumer disclosure, collect and report data about the uses of different financial products, review new financial products for safety, and require modification of dangerous products before they can be marketed to the public." She foresaw the new Bureau as being able to evaluate these products to eliminate the gimmicks that made some far more dangerous than others.

At a time when the nation is still coping with the aftermath of a decade of a hands-off regulatory approach that brought the nation the worst financial crisis in three generations, with mortgage foreclosures still occurring at a rate of one million a year, with nearly one in five Americans either unemployed, under-employed, or who have given up looking for work altogether (while still trying to cope with a mountain of consumer debt), we need a CFPB Director who truly understands the burden that American families are coping with today, and the mission of this new body.

Ms. Warren is simply the perfect choice for that post. We hope you will act quickly to appoint her as its Director.

Sincerely,

CAROLYN B. MALONEY

Member of Congress

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