



September 6, 2011

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby
United States Senate
304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0103

Dear Senator Shelby:

Today the Senate Banking Committee will consider the nomination of Richard Cordray to be director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB). Consumers Union, the non-profit publisher of *Consumer Reports*, enthusiastically endorses Cordray's nomination. Cordray is eminently qualified to be the first director of the CFPB. We strongly urge you to support his nomination.

Richard Cordray has a reputation for being an effective and fair leader in protecting consumers from harmful financial products and predatory lending practices. In a recent letter supporting Cordray's confirmation, a group of Ohio business leaders noted, "As a County Treasurer, State Treasurer and State Attorney General, he [Cordray] has been the epitome of the judicious and fair-minded public servant. He has impressed us with his intelligence, pragmatism, integrity, and service-oriented mindset."

As Attorney General for Ohio, he recovered over \$2 billion for consumers who lost money and their financial security from shady Wall Street investments, deceptive financial products, and wrongful foreclosures. He is also known for his bi-partisan efforts. His nomination has been praised by former Senator Mike DeWine, who defeated him in the 2010 Ohio Attorney General election, and Senator Sherrod Brown, who noted that Cordray "worked closely with Ohio banks, which are supporting his nomination... because he played it straight and fair".

A recent study by Consumer Reports found that 86% of people surveyed believe that the CFPB's top priorities should be holding financial companies accountable if they break the law. Cordray is currently the Director of the Enforcement Division of the CFPB and has already mapped out a reasoned approach to enforcing consumer laws, including allowing banks access to the CFPB's records in enforcement disputes. He believes in the CFPB's core mission of bringing oversight, fairness and transparency to the financial marketplace.

According to the Consumer Reports poll mentioned above, the CFPB enjoys broad support from nearly three-quarters (74%) of the consumers surveyed. Consumers want a

watchdog on their side to make sure financial companies are following the law and providing accurate, honest information.

Some in the Senate have made known their intent to block any nominee to head the CFPB until changes are made to its structure and funding mechanism. These changes would severely handicap and undermine the CFPB's ability to protect consumers.

Holding up this nomination is not in the best interest of consumers. Rather, it is a vote to hamstring the ability of the CFPB to fully protect consumers.

The CFPB was created to help protect consumers from the kind of unfair financial practices that put this country on the brink of financial disaster and ravaged consumers' financial security. Blocking this nomination will undercut the CFPB's ability to protect consumers from predatory mortgages, unfair bank overdraft practices, new credit card tricks and scams, expensive student loans, and credit reports riddled with errors that make it harder to get a fair deal on a loan.

Richard Cordray is smart, experienced, and cares about consumers. He is committed to a safe and fair financial marketplace and tough but even handed enforcement of the law.

He has the experience and know-how to help ensure that the CFPB will be a watchdog consumers can depend on to protect them from financial scams and rip-offs.

We urge the Senate to vote swiftly to confirm Richard Cordray as the CFPB's first director.

Sincerely,

Pamela Banks
Senior Policy Counsel
Consumers Union - Washington Office
202-462-6262