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October 18, 2011

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Sent via fax

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Minority Leader McConnell:

The undersigned state attorneys general write to express our support for the nomination of former Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray to head the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB). We believe he has the knowledge, experience and leadership skills to serve in this important position. He is both brilliant and balanced.

Mr. Cordray is particularly well qualified to serve in this position. For the past several months he has served as the CFPB's director of enforcement. Immediately before taking that position, Mr. Cordray served two years as Ohio Attorney General. In both roles, he earned a reputation as a strong advocate for the interests of consumers. As Attorney General of Ohio, he took a national leadership role in dealing with the Wall Street crisis. Mr. Cordray dealt with all the leading players, including Wall Street firms, banks, credit rating agencies and subprime mortgage lenders. In these actions he not only defended consumers but also worked to find fair and reasonable solutions for the financial industry. Using his good judgment and inherent sense of fairness, Mr. Cordray worked to create a better and more vibrant marketplace going forward.

The CFPB is intended to make basic financial practices such as taking out a mortgage or a loan more clear and transparent. It is also charged with ferreting out unfair lending practices. Mr. Cordray knows that such actions will not only protect consumers but will also assist community bankers and other financial companies that are committed to honest dealing and quality customer service. He is determined to use a balanced approach to the financial services industry. As head of the CFPB, Mr. Cordray will be an honest broker and strong advocate for both businesses and consumers that are committed to following the rules.

Mr. Cordray has a superior knowledge of the financial services marketplace. That knowledge combined with his keen intellect and experience as a lawyer

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and a prosecutor make him well qualified for this position. He is also a fair-minded man with sound judgment and great personal integrity.

Mr. Cordray graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree and earned Phi Beta Kappa honors from Michigan State University. He earned a Master's Degree from Oxford University in England. He then earned his Juris Doctor with honors from the University of Chicago Law School where he served as editor-in-chief of the *University of Chicago Law Review*. After law school, Mr. Cordray clerked for U.S. Supreme Court Justices Byron White and Anthony Kennedy.

In addition to his service as Attorney General of Ohio, Mr. Cordray served as well in the Ohio State House of Representatives and as both a county and state treasurer. He also served as the first Ohio State Solicitor where he conducted and supervised Ohio's toughest cases in the United States Supreme Court and the Ohio Supreme Court.

We are Attorneys General from across the country who represent a wide range of political interests. Some of us may disagree with aspects of the Dodd-Frank legislation. But we are united in our belief that Mr. Cordray is very well qualified to carry out the responsibilities of this position. Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely yours,



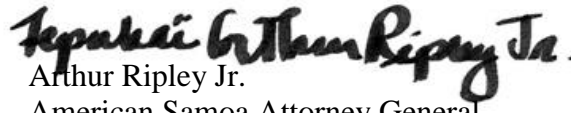
Roy Cooper
North Carolina Attorney General



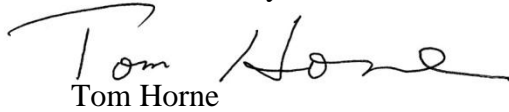
Mark Shurtleff
Utah Attorney General



John J. Burns
Alaska Attorney General



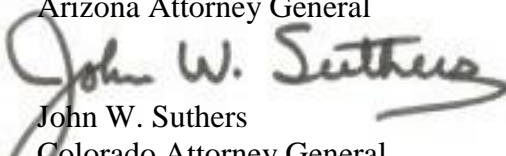
Arthur Ripley Jr.
American Samoa Attorney General



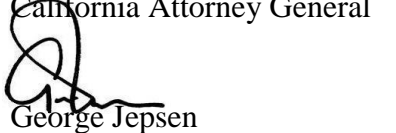
Tom Horne
Arizona Attorney General



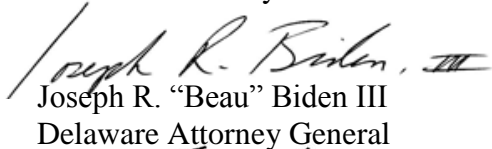
Kamala Harris
California Attorney General



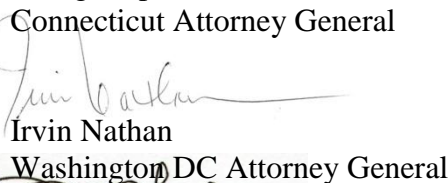
John W. Suthers
Colorado Attorney General



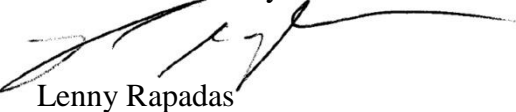
George Jepsen
Connecticut Attorney General




Joseph R. "Beau" Biden III
Delaware Attorney General



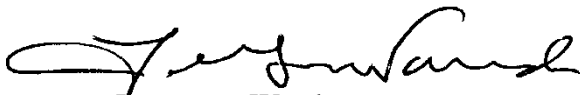
Irvin Nathan
Washington DC Attorney General



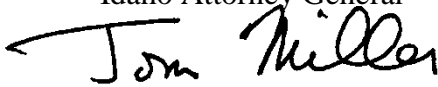
Lenny Rapadas
Guam Attorney General



David Louie
Hawaii Attorney General



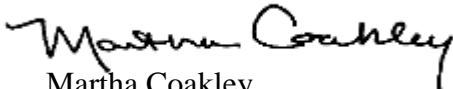
Lawrence Wasden
Idaho Attorney General



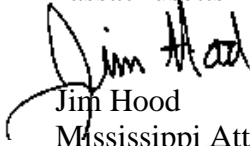
Tom Miller
Iowa Attorney General



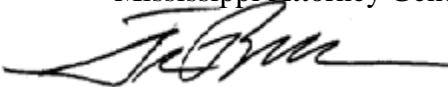
James "Buddy" Caldwell
Louisiana Attorney General



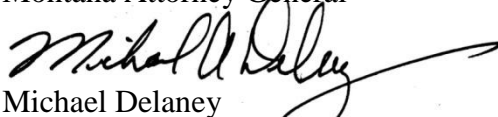
Martha Coakley
Massachusetts Attorney General



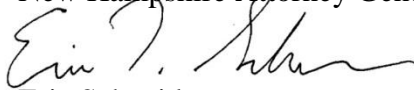
Jim Hood
Mississippi Attorney General



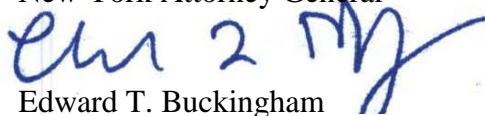
Steve Bullock
Montana Attorney General



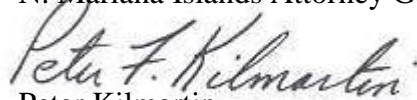
Michael Delaney
New Hampshire Attorney General



Eric Schneiderman
New York Attorney General



Edward T. Buckingham
N. Mariana Islands Attorney General



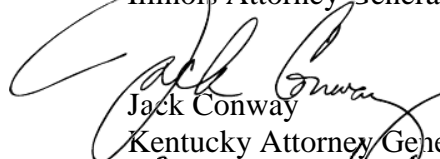
Peter F. Kilmartin
Rhode Island Attorney General



William H. Sorrell
Vermont Attorney General



Lisa Madigan
Illinois Attorney General



Jack Conway
Kentucky Attorney General



Douglas F. Gansler
Maryland Attorney General



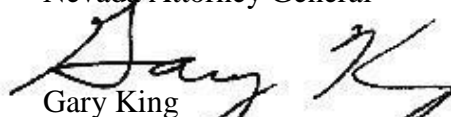
Lori Swanson
Minnesota Attorney General



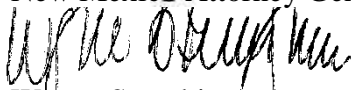
Chris Koster
Missouri Attorney General



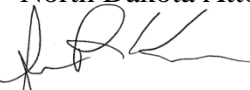
Catherine Cortez Masto
Nevada Attorney General



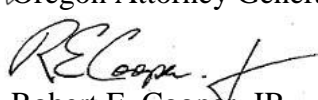
Gary King
New Mexico Attorney General



Wayne Stenehjem
North Dakota Attorney General



John Kroger
Oregon Attorney General



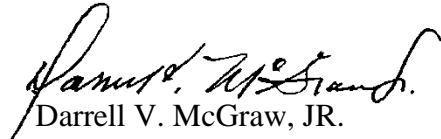
Robert E. Cooper, JR.
Tennessee Attorney General



Vincent Frazier
U.S. Virgin Islands Attorney General



Rob McKenna
Washington Attorney General



Darrell V. McGraw, JR.
West Virginia Attorney General



Greg Phillips
Wyoming Attorney General

cc: All Members of The United States Senate