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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND
URBAN AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6075

LAURA SWANSON, STAFF DIRECTOR
BRAD GRANTZ, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

June 17, 2021

Mr. Mark Bialek
Inspector General
Office of Inspector General for the
Federal Reserve Board of Governors and
Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
20th Street and Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20551

Dear Inspector General Bialek:

According to press reports, the political leadership of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) under the Biden Administration has been taking unusual and possibly unlawful actions to push out top-level career civil servants at the CFPB in order to fill those civil service positions with hand-picked loyalists.¹ Such actions reportedly include offering employees extraordinary separation incentives to leave their posts and placing employees on administrative leave after opening up frivolous investigations against them—allegations that, if true, may violate employment and other laws.² Moreover, the CFPB notably declined to deny any of the detailed allegations in the report.³

In light of the seriousness of the allegations in this report, as well as the implication that these actions may have been undertaken to provide the administration's nominee for Director of the CFPB, Rohit Chopra, with the opportunity to hire a hand-picked team of loyalists for senior positions, I request that your office promptly review the allegations. If found credible, I ask that you open an investigation into whether any CFPB officials—or other officials in the federal government—violated any employment or other laws in connection with the matter described above.

¹ Eric Katz, *Biden Employs Aggressive Strategy to Sideline Top Career Officials at Consumer Protection Bureau*, Government Executive (Jun. 14, 2021), <https://www.govexec.com/management/2021/06/biden-employs-aggressive-strategy-sideline-top-career-officials-consumer-protection-bureau/174711/>.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pat Toomey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "P" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Pat Toomey
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Sherrod Brown, Chairman, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and
Urban Affairs