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Current & Former Federal Reserve Consumer Advisory Council Members Call on Senator Dodd to Not House CFPA at Fed, Propose Standalone Consumer Protection Agency

Group of Experts Federal Reserve Relied on for Consumer Advice Says Strong Consumer Protection Won't Happen Without Independent Agency

Washington, DC – Nineteen current and former members of the Federal Reserve's Consumer Advisory Council (CAC) today sent a letter to Senator Dodd calling for a standalone Consumer Financial Protection Agency not housed at the Federal Reserve or any other banking regulatory agency. Considering the failure of the agencies, "We think it would be imprudent to give the Federal Reserve or any other existing agency primary consumer protection responsibilities," says the letter. "The Federal Reserve has its hands full with responsibilities relating to safety and soundness and monetary policy. Consumers will be served only by having the CFPA as an independent agency where the primary responsibility is consumer protection. We urge you reconsider your proposal for the CFPA to be within any other agency."

"Putting the CFPA at the Federal Reserve, as has been proposed, will be more waste of taxpayers' money because we'll have to pay for the appearance of protection without getting any," said John Taylor, president & CEO of the National Community Reinvestment Coalition. "Had the Fed exercised their authority and enforced consumer protections, they could have nipped the foreclosure crisis in the bud. Now to turn over consumer protections to the very people who allowed the abuses to happen is simply beyond belief."

The National Community Reinvestment Coalition is an association of more than 600 community-based organizations that promote access to basic banking services, including credit and savings, to create and sustain affordable housing, job development and vibrant communities for America's working families.