

November 9, 2011

Senator Richard Durbin  
711 Hart Senate Building  
Washington DC, 20510

Representative Samuel Farr  
1126 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington DC, 20515

Senator Jerry Moran  
354 Russell Senate Building  
Washington DC, 20510

Representative Jack Kingston  
2372 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Durbin and Moran, and Congressmen Farr and Kingston:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing business, consumers, and labor, we urge you to support adequate funding for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

The CFTC role in oversight of financial markets is vital to businesses who use commodity markets to hedge bona fide business risks, vital to the economic well-being of American families who rely on affordable prices for products like gasoline and food, and vital to the stability of our overall financial system. The Dodd-Frank Act has recently greatly expanded the responsibilities of the CFTC in overseeing derivatives. The Act charges the CFTC with oversight of approximately \$280 trillion in previously unregulated domestic swaps markets, representing a more than seven-fold increase in the notional value of the market the CFTC must supervise. In addition, the CFTC has recently voted to impose vital new position limits in the commodity markets to prevent excessive speculation and possible manipulation in commodity markets.

In light of the importance of the CFTC's work, the vast increase in its responsibilities under the Dodd-Frank Act and the constant need to respond to trading technologies and practices, we would favor fully funding the President's request of \$308 million. This funding level is small in comparison with the size and significance of the markets to be supervised by the agency. However, failing this, it is crucial that the CFTC at least be given a significant increase in funding to address its enormous expansion in responsibilities.

The proposed House funding freeze at the prior year level of approximately \$170 million would leave the agency drastically underfunded. This funding level would jeopardize market stability and integrity, and threaten the confidence of market participants who use these markets for bona fide hedging purposes. It would make it effectively impossible to enforce new CFTC oversight on the previously unregulated derivatives market that contributed so directly to the catastrophic financial crisis of 2008. Effective enforcement of new limits on speculation that is fueling instability in commodity prices would also be impossible. In comparison, the Senate-approved level of \$240 million is a significantly more adequate level of funding.

Once again, we urge you to recognize the CFTC's significance to our nation's economy and fund the agency at a level which will make it possible for the agency to perform its responsibilities. The Senate-approved level of \$240 million is the minimum that should be considered.

Sincerely,

ActionAid USA  
AFL-CIO  
AFSCME  
Air Transport Association  
American Feed Industry Association  
American Public Gas Association  
American Public Power Association  
American Trucking Associations  
Americans for Financial Reform  
California Black Farmers and Agriculturalists Association  
California Independent Oil Marketers Association  
CIP Americas Program.  
Colorado Petroleum Marketers Association  
Consumer Federation of America  
Consumer Watchdog  
Florida Petroleum Marketers Association  
Food & Water Watch  
Friends of the Earth  
Gasoline & Automotive Service Dealers of America  
Illinois Association of Convenience Stores  
Illinois Petroleum Marketers Association  
Independent Connecticut Petroleum Association  
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy  
Louisiana Oil Marketers and Convenience Store Association  
Maine Energy Marketers Association  
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns  
Massachusetts Oilheat Council  
NAFA Fleet Management Association  
National Association of Convenience Stores  
National Association of Oil & Energy Service Professionals  
National Association of Shell Marketers  
National Association of Truck Stop Operators  
National Farmers Union  
National Latino Farmers & Ranchers Trade Association  
New England Fuel Institute  
New Rules for Global Finance  
New York Oil Heating Association  
North Dakota Petroleum Marketers Association  
Oil Heat Institute of Long Island  
Oilheat Institute of Rhode Island  
Organization for Competitive Markets  
Oxfam America  
Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association of Kansas  
Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Stores of Iowa  
Petroleum Marketers Association of America

Public Citizen  
Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund R-CALF USA  
Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia  
Society of Independent Gasoline Marketers of America  
The Oakland Institute  
The Swaps and Derivatives Market Association  
U.S. PIRG  
Vermont Fuel Dealers Association  
Wyoming Petroleum Marketers Association

Cc:

Senator Barbara Mikulski  
Senator Ben Nelson  
Senator Daniel Inyoue  
Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Senator Herb Kohl  
Senator John Hoeven  
Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison  
Senator Mark Pryor  
Senator Mitch McConnell  
Senator Patty Murray  
Senator Richard Shelby  
Senator Roy Blunt  
Senator Sherrod Brown  
Senator Susan Collins  
Senator Thad Cochran  
Senator Tim Johnson  
Senator Tom Harkin  
Representative Adam Schiff  
Representative C.W. Bill Young  
Representative Chaka Fattah  
Representative David Price  
Representative Ed Pastor  
Representative Frank R. Wolf  
Representative Hal Rogers  
Representative Jerry Lewis  
Representative Jo Ann Emerson  
Representative Jo Bonner  
Representative John Culberson  
Representative John Olver  
Representative John R. Carter  
Representative Norm Dicks  
Representative Robert B. Aderholt  
Representative Rosa DeLauro  
Representative Steven C. LaTourette  
Representative Tom Latham  
Gary Gensler, Chairman, Commodity Futures Trading Commission  
Jill Sommers, Commissioner, Commodity Futures Trading Commission  
Scott O'Malia, Commissioner, Commodity Futures Trading Commission  
Bart Chilton, Commissioner, Commodity Futures Trading Commission  
Mark Wetjen, Commissioner, Commodity Futures Trading Commission