

April 23, 2020

Jay Powell
Chairman, Federal Reserve Board
Mariner Eccles Federal Reserve Board Building
2051 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20418

Steven Mnuchin
Secretary of the Treasury
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Chairman Powell and Secretary Mnuchin:

The fifty undersigned organizations write to urge the Federal Reserve Board and the U.S. Treasury to disclose the specific borrower identities and the specific terms and size of the support they receive from the credit programs authorized under Section 4003(b)(4) of the CARES Act and Section 13(3) of the Federal Reserve Act. We also urge the Federal Reserve Board and the U.S. Treasury to provide the public with ongoing information on employment at these firms.

The Section 4003(b)(4) programs could support over \$4.5 trillion in total lending. The six lending facilities announced on April 9th are already authorized to provide up to \$2.3 trillion in credit, and less than half of the equity allocated to the U.S. Treasury has been committed.

The type of lending and purchases authorized under these programs are unprecedented and include a greater range of borrowers and credit quality than any previous Federal Reserve intervention. They clearly go far beyond simply providing financial system liquidity and actively allocate credit to a wide range of non-financial corporations. It would be even more unprecedented to undertake such a potentially transformative credit intervention without providing essential details to the public on who receives funds, how much they receive, and the terms of their support.

We believe it would be a grave error and totally inappropriate for the Federal Reserve to try to use legal technicalities to withhold the key details of individual transactions from the public. There could be many tens or even hundreds of thousands of transactions financed through these programs. Aggregated data at the facility level will clearly not be informative as to which specific entities receive support or how much they receive. Without this information, the public will not be able to understand what is being done with taxpayer funds. Any attempt to dispense trillions of dollars in the dark will lead to lasting damage to the credibility of the Federal Reserve and to trust in our institutions.

We can see no reasonable argument against releasing core transaction level data on borrowers and the credit they receive. We urge you to make this data available to the public.

In addition, the Federal Reserve and the Treasury should cooperate in making available to the public data on the payroll employment of firms who receive credit assistance from Federal Reserve facilities. The goal of financial support to these firms should be to support the broader economy, not simply the capital owners of the firm. Employment is a critical metric by which the public can determine whether the goal of broad economic support is being met.

These facilities will not be successful unless they are accompanied by effective transparency and public disclosure. We urge you to take the steps necessary to make that happen.

Sincerely,

20/20 Vision

Action Center on Race and the Economy

Allied Progress

American Economic Liberties Institute

Americans for Financial Reform

Better Markets

California Reinvestment Coalition

Center for Digital Democracy

Center for Economic and Policy Research

Center for Popular Democracy

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW)

Climate Hawks Vote

Communications Workers of America (CWA)

Consumer Federation of America

Demand Progress Education Fund

Economic Policy Institute

Financial Accountability and Corporate Transparency (FACT) Coalition

Food & Water Action

Global Policy Solutions

Friends of the Earth

Global Policy Solutions

Good Jobs First

Greenpeace US

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

Institute for Policy Studies, Global Economy Project

Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility

International Brotherhood of Teamsters

Main Street Alliance

Mainers for Accountable Leadership

Mountain State Justice

National Consumer Law Center (on behalf of its low-income clients)

National Education Association (NEA)

National Employment Law Project

New Jersey Citizen Action

Open Markets Institute

Partnership for Working Families

People's Action

Philly Neighborhood Networks

Private Equity Stakeholder Project

Project On Government Oversight (POGO)

Public Citizen

Revolving Door Project

Service Employees International Union (SEIU)

Strong Economy For All Coalition

Tennessee Citizen Action

THE ONE LESS FOUNDATION

Transform Finance

U.S. PIRG

Woodstock Institute

Working Families Party