

August 15, 2024

Dear Vice President Harris/Former President Trump,

As planning for presidential transitions is underway, the undersigned 35 community, civil rights, consumer, and advocacy organizations write to express solid and enthusiastic support for ongoing enforcement and regulatory actions by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) to combat junk fees. To prevent consolidated corporate power from imposing fees that extract economic value from families, junk fees must remain a part of any future economic agenda to lower costs for families.

Exploitative junk fees ranging from late credit card fees, overdraft fees, non-sufficient funds fees, and more drain money and resources from households. Lower-wage workers, people of color, and consumers across the country pay fees that further strain their budgets, exacerbating financial instability and economic precarity. These kinds of fees can trap people in cycles of debt and limit access to banking, resulting in financial exclusion. Excessive junk fees can also harm small businesses. They can stifle entrepreneurship and make it more difficult for small businesses to grow and succeed. Regulation of these fees curbs hidden, inequitable, and unscrupulous practices that extract funds from families and hurt local economies.

The CFPB's regulation of junk fees, [a campaign that is overwhelmingly supported by the public](#), is crucial. These fees have a detrimental impact by pushing consumers out of mainstream financial products into fringe financial services and predatory financial products that are even more costly. The prevalence of these fees across different products and markets underscores the pressing need for continuous and vigilant action.

For example, [junk fees tied to school lunch payments](#) lack transparency and force families to pay unnecessary fees for their children to purchase school lunches easily.

Any future administration must prioritize an economic agenda to rectify and prevent financial harms caused by Wall Street banks, predatory lenders, and large corporations. The CFPB, with its ongoing commitment to uncovering and addressing junk fees, is a key player in this effort.

This coalition of consumer and financial justice advocates is fully prepared to support and welcome an economic justice agenda that prioritizes the financial stability of consumers and households. This readiness underscores the widespread support for these reforms and the collective determination to achieve financial stability.

Signatories,

Action Center on Race and the Economy

Americans for Financial Reform

Arkansas Community Organizations

Alysson Snow, Professor in Practice University of San Diego School of Law

CAMEO Network

CFA

Consumer Action
Economic Action Maryland
Economic Empowerment Center DBA Lending Link
Demand Progress
Faith in Action
Georgia Watch
Jewish Women International
Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada
Make the Road Nevada
National Association of Consumer Advocates
National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders (NALCAB)
National Consumer Law Center (on behalf of its low-income clients)
National Consumers League
National Disability Institute
NELP Action
Northern Nevada Legal Aid
National Community Reinvestment Coalition
Oregon Consumer League
Progressive Change Institute
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada Action Fund
Public Justice
Public Justice Center
RAISE Texas
Rise Economy
20/20 Vision
Virginia Citizens Consumer Council
Woodstock Institute

