



Coalition on Homelessness
and Housing in Ohio
COHHIO

January 4, 2012

The following statement may be attributed to Bill Faith, executive director of the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO), in response to President Obama's recess appointment of Richard Cordray to head the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

“We applaud President Obama’s strength and integrity today in pushing forward on the recess appointment of Richard Cordray to direct the nation’s chief consumer watchdog agency.

“COHHIO and partner organizations have been working for more than six months to demonstrate Cordray’s broad-base appeal as a nominee. He is genuine, thoughtful and smart. He will lead the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau with unwavering fairness on behalf of everyday hardworking Americans.

“With Cordray at the helm, American consumers will finally have the protection they deserve against unscrupulous financial industries whose business models employ high cost and risky loan services and products.

“Today’s appointment gives the agency the full powers under the law. For the first time in our nation’s history we will have a fully functioning agency protecting consumers from industry bad actors that are currently unregulated at the federal level, including payday lenders and independent mortgage brokers.”

Attached are Cordray support letters sent to members of the U.S. Senate from Ohio business heavyweights Les Wexner (Chairman and CEO, Limited Brands, Inc.), Al Ratner (board co-chair emeritus, Forest City Enterprises), Michael Morris (Chairman and CEO, American Electric Power), and John Pepper (retired board chair and CEO, Procter and Gamble); and from Michael Van Buskirk, president of the Ohio Bankers League – an association that would be regulated by the CFPB.

Below is a letter distributed by COHHIO last August urging Cordray’s confirmation. It was signed by more than 60 community groups and leaders, as well as consumer, labor, senior, and civic organizations.

Cordray Sign On Letter

U.S. Senate Should Quickly Confirm Richard Cordray as Director of the

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

August, 2011

TO: The Honorable Tim Johnson, Chairman, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, 136 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510
The Honorable Richard Shelby, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, 304 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

On behalf of the undersigned community groups and leaders, as well as consumer, labor, senior, and civic organizations, we urge your swift confirmation of Richard Cordray as director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Until a director is confirmed or appointed, the new CFPB cannot fully protect American consumers from unfair practices by banks, payday lenders and other financial institutions.

As Attorney General of Ohio, Richard Cordray was a strong but fair enforcer who worked in a non-partisan manner to protect the people of Ohio. In a recent letter supporting Cordray’s confirmation, a group of Ohio business leaders noted, “As a County Treasurer, State Treasurer and State Attorney General, he has been the epitome of the judicious and fair-minded public servant. He has impressed us with his intelligence, pragmatism, integrity, and service-oriented mindset.” Even Ohio’s current Republican Attorney General, the former U.S. Senator Mike DeWine, supports Cordray’s confirmation.

In Ohio’s communities, Cordray saw first-hand the effects of unregulated and reckless subprime mortgage lending in Ohio. He is the right person to protect the nation from the kind of lending practices that helped create the worst recession since the Great Depression. Congress created the CFPB to police Wall Street. We now need Cordray as chief cop.

Under current law, the bureau will be fully accountable to the American people, to Congress, the judiciary, and the President. It will have sufficient freedom of action to be effective, but already it is more constrained than any other financial agency by oversight from other regulators and by special review by small business representatives.

Richard Cordray supports lending institutions that play fair. But he’s a tough enforcer on those that do not. It is time for the Senate to put politics behind and put consumers, service members, and seniors first.

We urge you to vote to confirm Richard Cordray as director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau as soon as possible.

**cc: Senator Sherrod Brown
Senator Rob Portman**

Organization	Signature
Alliance for Retired Americans in Ohio	Norman Wernet, State Director
Bill Ogg	Scioto County Treasurer
Buckeye Hope Foundation	Roy Lowenstein, Vice President
Capital Success, LLC	Julie Kell, President
Caring Kitchen, Inc.	Cindy Gilbert, Executive Director
Caritas Counseling	Barbara DeLeone, Med, PCC, CRC
Carolyn Rice	Montgomery County Treasurer
City of Zanesville Fair Housing	Connie Quarles, Fair Housing/Contract Compliance Administrator

Coalition on Homelessness & Housing in Ohio	Bill Faith, Executive Director
Columbus Urban League	Loretta King, Director of Housing Services
Communities United for Action	Dave Scharfenberger, Organizer
Community Action Commission of Belmont County	Gary Obloy, Executive Director
Community Action Commission of Fayette County	Bambi Baughn, Executive Director
Community Development for All People	John Edgar, Executive Director
Community Housing Solutions	Andy Nikiforovs, Executive Director
Corporation for Supportive Housing	Sally Luken, Director Ohio Hub
County of Summit Office of Community Affairs	Cynthia Sich, Director
Daniel Troy	Lake County Commissioner
Ed Leonard	Franklin County Treasurer
EDEN, Inc.	Kathryn Kazol, Executive Director
Emmanuel Community Care Center	Sr. Jean Orsuto
Empowering, Strengthening Ohio's People (ESOP)	Mark Seifert, Executive Director
Fair Housing Resource Center	Patricia Kidd, Esq. Executive Director
Fentress & Barnes, CPA's	Todd Fentress, Managing Partner
Homeownership Center of Greater Dayton	Beth Deutscher, Executive Director
Homeport	Maude Hill, VP of Community & Government Relations
Housing Opportunities Made Equal (HOME)	Bill Hanks, Foreclosure Prevention Specialist
Housing Services Alliance	Bambi Baughn
Interchurch Social Services of Knox County, Inc.	Joy Harris, Executive Director
Jefferson County Coalition on Housing and Homelessness	Lisa Ward, Chairman
Jefferson County Community Action Council	Barbara West, Chief Executive Officer
Jerry Byers	Ross County Treasurer
Kermit Russell	Champaign County Treasurer
Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry Cleveland	Reverend George Hrbek
Mahoning Valley Organizing Collaborative	Heather McMahon, Managing Director
Mayor Frank Jackson	City of Cleveland
Mayor Mark Mallory	City of Cincinnati
Mayor Michael Coleman	City of Columbus

Metropolitan Area Church Council/Columbus	The Reverend Deniray Mueller
Miami Valley Fair Housing Center, Inc.	Jim McCarthy, President/CEO
Millennia Housing Development, Ltd.	Christine Robertson
Neighborhood Development Services	Dave Vaughn, Executive Director
Neighborhood Housing Partnership of Greater Springfield	Tina Koumoutsos, Executive Director
Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater Cleveland	Lou Tisler, Executive Director
NeighborWorks Collaborative of Ohio	Dave Vaughn, Chair
Northeast Ohio Legal Services	Jim Callen, Executive Director
Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies	Phil Cole, Executive Director
Ohio Association of Rehabilitation Facilities	Julie Kell, MPA
Ohio CDC Association	Nate Coffman, Executive Director
Ohio Coalition for Responsible Lending	Cathy Johnston, Coordinator
Ohio Organizing Collaborative	Heather McMahon,
Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy	David Rinebolt
Ohio PIRG	Allison Cairo, Policy Advisor
Ohio Poverty Law Center	Linda Cook, Senior Staff Attorney
OUR Family Resource Center	Kathy Mescher, Director
Pathways of Central Ohio	Kristin McCloud, Executive Director
Salvation Army/Newark Corps & Community Center	Diana DeMichael, Corps Commanding Officer NE Ohio Division
Samaritan Center of Guernsey County	Robert Werner/Stevie Fairchild
SC Ministry Foundation	Sally Duffy, President
Schoonover Boyer & Associates CPAs	John Boyer, CPA
SEIU District 1199	Becky Williams, President WV, KY, OH
Toledo Fair Housing Center	Kathy Broka, President/CEO
Wright State Social Work Faculty	Dr. Michel Coconis
YWCA of Elyria and Lorain	Jeanine Donaldson, Executive Director

Contact: Suzanne Gravette Acker, 614-280-1984, ext. 11
Bill Faith, 614-579-6108