

DARRELL E. ISSA, CALIFORNIA  
CHAIRMAN

ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS

ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS, MARYLAND  
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

DAN BURTON, INDIANA  
JOHN L. MICA, FLORIDA  
TODD RUSSELL PLATTS, PENNSYLVANIA  
MICHAEL R. TURNER, OHIO  
PATRICK McHENRY, NORTH CAROLINA  
JIM JORDAN, OHIO  
JASON CHAFFETZ, UTAH  
CONNIE MACK, FLORIDA  
TIM WALBERG, MICHIGAN  
JAMES LANKFORD, OKLAHOMA  
JUSTIN AMASH, MICHIGAN  
ANN MARIE BUERKLE, NEW YORK  
PAUL A. GOSAR, D.D.S., ARIZONA  
RAUL R. LABRADOR, IDAHO  
PATRICK MEEHAN, PENNSYLVANIA  
SCOTT DesJARLAIS, M.D., TENNESSEE  
JOE WALSH, ILLINOIS  
TREY GOWDY, SOUTH CAROLINA  
DENNIS A. ROSS, FLORIDA  
FRANK C. GUINTA, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
BLAKE FARENTHOLD, TEXAS  
MIKE KELLY, PENNSYLVANIA

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074

FACSIMILE (202) 225-3974

MINORITY (202) 225-5051

<http://oversight.house.gov>

EDOLPHUS TOWNS, NEW YORK  
CAROLYN B. MALONEY, NEW YORK  
ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON,  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
DENNIS J. KUCINICH, OHIO  
JOHN F. TIERNEY, MASSACHUSETTS  
WM. LACY CLAY, MISSOURI  
STEPHEN F. LYNCH, MASSACHUSETTS  
JIM COOPER, TENNESSEE  
GERALD E. CONNOLLY, VIRGINIA  
MIKE QUIGLEY, ILLINOIS  
DANNY K. DAVIS, ILLINOIS  
BRUCE L. BRALEY, IOWA  
PETER WELCH, VERMONT  
JOHN A. YARMUTH, KENTUCKY  
CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY, CONNECTICUT  
JACKIE SPEIER, CALIFORNIA

LAWRENCE J. BRADY  
STAFF DIRECTOR

February 25, 2011

The Honorable Neil M. Barofsky  
Special Inspector General for the  
Troubled Asset Relief Program  
1801 L Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Inspector General Barofsky:

Thank you for your testimony before the Committee on January 26, 2011. I am writing to request that you conduct a more detailed audit of allegations of serious misconduct by the mortgage service industry that you referenced in your testimony. As you stated, the performance of loan servicers has been “abysmal.”<sup>1</sup> You also stated:

“From the repeated loss of borrower paperwork, to blatant failure to follow program standards, to unnecessary delays that severely harm borrowers while benefiting servicers themselves, stories of servicer negligence and misconduct are legion.”<sup>2</sup>

You also described “daily accounts of errors and more serious misconduct” on the part of the mortgage service industry, and you testified that your hotline has “received more than 24,000 contacts,” many of which “are complaints from homeowners dealing with mortgage servicers.”<sup>3</sup>

I request that your office conduct an audit for the specific purpose of analyzing the type, scope, and severity of allegations against homeowners’ mortgage servicers. I do not seek information that could compromise ongoing criminal investigations, but instead request a survey of the various complaints SIGTARP has received or is aware of relating to mortgage servicers, a categorization of the specific allegations of wrongdoing, and a description of SIGTARP’s efforts

---

<sup>1</sup> Testimony of Neil M. Barofsky, Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program, *Hearing on Bailouts and the Foreclosure Crisis: Report of the Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program*, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (Jan. 26, 2011).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> Transcript, *Hearing on Bailouts and the Foreclosure Crisis: Report of the Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program*, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (Jan. 26, 2011).

The Honorable Neil M. Barofsky  
Page 2

to support civil and criminal enforcement actions against mortgage servicers pursuant to your jurisdiction. I request that you conduct the audit and provide this Committee with your results by May 2011. If you have an ongoing project related to this issue, I ask that you incorporate my request into that work.

If you have any questions about this request, please have a member of your staff contact Susanne Sachsman Grooms of the committee staff at 202-225-5051.

Thank you for again for your testimony, and for your ongoing work on this critical issue.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings  
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Darrell E. Issa, Chairman