

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 1, 2018

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney  
Acting Director  
Consumer Financial Protection Bureau  
1700 G Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20552

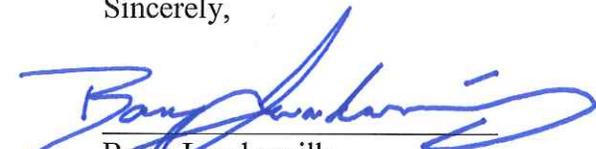
Dear Acting Director Mulvaney,

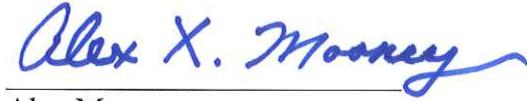
We write to express our support and gratitude for your recent decision to suspend the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's (Bureau) collection of consumers' personal information. As you know, several federal financial regulatory agencies, including the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and Securities and Exchange Commission have experienced significant data breaches, and we are gravely concerned about the federal government's cybersecurity posture. We believe our government must recognize that we do not have to protect data that we do not collect. In this era of hacking and identity theft, we must also recognize that it is often not a matter of if there is a breach, but when; and we must take every possible step to make the federal government a less desirable target for cyber criminals.

On June 23, 2017, fourteen members of the House Financial Services Committee wrote to the Bureau under the previous administration's leadership to express serious concerns about the Bureau's exploration of alternative data on consumers. This concern was due in large part to multiple cybersecurity weaknesses at the Bureau which had been identified by the Government Accountability Office and the Bureau's Inspector General. Alternative data presents a virtually limitless scope of information on consumers, including payment history of rent, utilities, cell phone bills, small dollar loans, check cashing, and bank account records. Additional, non-traditional sources of alternative data may include Facebook posts, capitalization of text messages, email addresses, brand of vehicle, and educational background. As you know, the Bureau is explicitly prohibited from obtaining personally-identifiable information (PII) in its market monitoring by Section 1022 of the Dodd-Frank Act. If careful steps are not taken to ensure that this data does not contain PII, this could present an untold cybersecurity risk. This example demonstrates the importance of your decision to suspend the Bureau's collection of consumers' personal information.

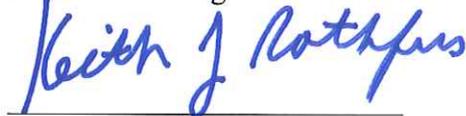
We look forward to continuing to work with you on these important issues.

Sincerely,

  
Barry Loudermilk  
Member of Congress

  
Alex Mooney  
Member of Congress

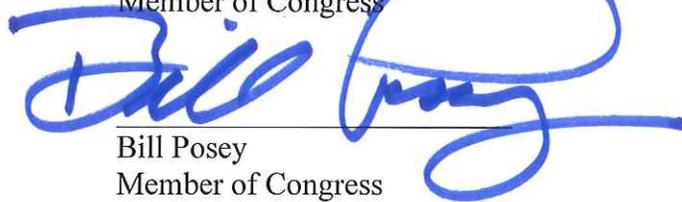
  
Ted Budd  
Member of Congress

  
Keith Rothfus  
Member of Congress

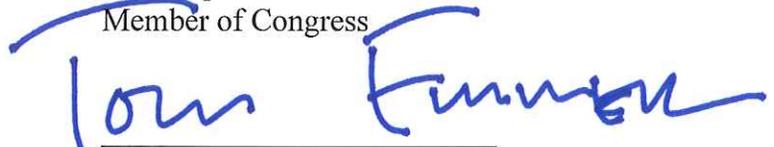
  
Dave Trott  
Member of Congress

  
Tom MacArthur  
Member of Congress

  
Ann Wagner  
Member of Congress

  
Bill Posey  
Member of Congress

  
Scott Tipton  
Member of Congress

  
Tom Emmer  
Member of Congress

  
Robert Pittenger  
Member of Congress