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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND  
URBAN AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6075

GREGG RICHARD, STAFF DIRECTOR  
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March 17, 2020

The Honorable Kathy Kraninger  
Director  
Consumer Financial Protection Bureau  
1700 G St. N.W.  
Washington, DC 20552

Dear Director Kraninger:

I am writing to urge you to immediately cease all pending rulemaking processes at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) that are not a direct response to the immediate public health or economic risks posed by COVID-19. The CFPB and all federal agencies should suspend all rulemakings that are unrelated to or could impede our nation's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and instead focus and prioritize actions on activities related to the economic risks posed to consumers. This cessation should include an extension of any pending comment periods on all rules closing after March 1, 2020.

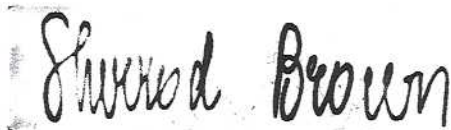
The American people are scrambling to ensure they protect themselves, their families, and vulnerable individuals in society from this virus. Businesses, public institutions, and other organizations are devoting their resources to arrange alternative ways to carry out their activities while protecting their employees and the public. Under these circumstances, it will be difficult for the public to have the customary engagement with government agencies and provide meaningful recommendations and comments on proposed rulemakings that are not directly related to the crisis at hand.

In addition, the CFPB should focus its resources on providing reliable guidance and responding to the economic effects of this crisis rather than on processing other rulemakings. During this period, all rulemakings and comment periods closing after March 1, 2020 that are not directly related to the virus response or other imminent health, safety, or national security threats should be suspended or extended for at least 45 days.

The COVID-19 virus threatens both the health of the public and the economy. In light of this crisis, I urge you to place an immediate moratorium on rulemakings not directly related to the crisis at hand until the COVID-19 virus has been fully addressed by our financial and public

health agencies. As the CFPB continues its mission of enforcing federal consumer financial laws and protecting consumers, rules should be postponed until the full public health and economic impacts of COVID-19 are understood.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sherrod Brown". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small vertical stamp or mark to the left of the first few letters.

Sherrod Brown  
Ranking Member