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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

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May 25, 2011

The Honorable Patrick McHenry
Subcommittee on TARP, Financial Services,
and Bailouts of Public and Private Programs
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman McHenry:

During yesterday's Subcommittee hearing, you impugned the character of a dedicated public official who is doing nothing more than trying to serve the interests of American consumers—Professor Elizabeth Warren, the Special Advisor to the Secretary of the Treasury charged with standing up the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Your disrespectful treatment of Professor Warren undermines the integrity of our Committee and offends the standards of the House of Representatives.

During the hearing, you claimed that Professor Warren gave misleading testimony at a previous hearing when she stated that she provided “advice” regarding governmental efforts to hold mortgage servicing companies accountable for widespread abuses, including illegal foreclosures against military servicemembers and their families, inflated fees, and frauds on the court. In fact, during a press interview earlier in the day, you said that you “question the veracity of her former testimony in relation to the reality that we now see.” When asked by the correspondent if you thought she lied during her previous testimony, you replied, “Sure.”

During yesterday's hearing, you also accused Professor Warren of lying about the agreement she made with your staff about the hearing schedule and her departure time. Despite multiple conversations with your staff to finalize the specific time, place, and duration of the hearing, you claimed that she was “making this up.”

Finally, instead of apologizing to Professor Warren after the hearing, you compounded your offense by releasing a statement saying that you were “shocked” by Professor Warren's “blatant sense of entitlement.”

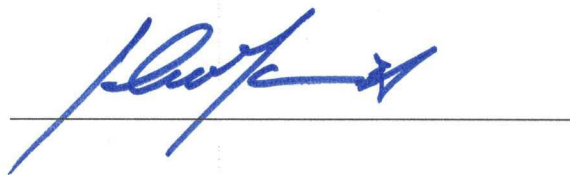
These are inappropriate and false accusations. It is unacceptable for any Member of Congress, let alone the Chairman of a Subcommittee, to treat witnesses in this manner. Despite potential disagreement on substantive issues, we always have an obligation to maintain the decorum of Committee proceedings, to treat witnesses with respect, and not to defame them.

We ask today that you apologize to Professor Warren. We believe you should apologize to the Members of the Subcommittee, as well, for denigrating the proceedings and potentially compromising our ability to conduct our important work in the future.

Sincerely,

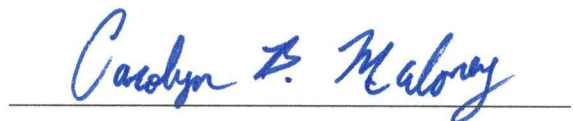
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Carolyn B. Maloney