NEW ECONOMY PROJECT

July 7, 2026

U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
534 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Scott and Ranking Member Warren:

Thank you for the opportunity to express our grave concerns about the ongoing attacks on the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB).

For the past three decades, New Economy Project has worked with communities across New York to challenge predatory lending, abusive debt collection, and other forms of economic exploitation, while pressing for policy change and regulatory accountability at the local, state, and federal levels.

Our accomplishments include winning strong anti-predatory mortgage lending and foreclosure prevention laws; keeping payday lending debt traps out of New York through vigorous defense of the state's 25 percent criminal usury cap and other consumer protections; ending an insidious form of employment discrimination in New York City based on job applicants' personal credit histories; and securing a groundbreaking class-action settlement against a debt-buyer network that resulted in a $59 million monetary award and the vacatur of nearly $800 million in debt-collection default judgments.

We were on the ground throughout the subprime mortgage and foreclosure crisis, working directly with New Yorkers whose homes were being taken from them and alongside community organizations fighting to hold financial institutions accountable. During the COVID-19 crisis, we helped win passage of critical state legislation prohibiting debt collectors from seizing New Yorkers' federal stimulus payments. And every day, through our financial justice hotline and partnerships with community-based organizations, we continue to work with New Yorkers harmed by abusive debt collectors, predatory lenders, banks, credit reporting companies, and other financial corporations—industries that have become increasingly emboldened as the federal government abandons its responsibility to enforce the law.

Alongside many of our partners, we fought for the creation of the CFPB to rein in the abusive and unlawful financial practices that directly led to the 2008 global financial crisis. Since its creation, the Bureau has served as a critical line of defense against the systemic extraction of wealth from working people, securing billions of dollars in relief for people and communities exploited by powerful financial corporations.

Before the Trump administration began its campaign to dismantle the agency, we could rely on the CFPB to respond when New Yorkers were harmed by inaccurate credit reporting, illegal banking practices, abusive debt collection, and other unlawful conduct. Today, the Bureau is being turned against the very people and communities it was created to protect. It is imposing new barriers on people seeking help, abandoning investigations, retreating from enforcement, and allowing corporations to violate basic consumer protections with growing impunity.

The consequences are already being felt in the communities we serve. Credit reporting companies, banks, and other financial institutions have become less responsive even when presented with clear evidence of unlawful conduct. People facing fraud and financial scams have fewer places to turn. Predatory companies are testing the limits of what they can get away with. And the extraction of wealth from low-income people and communities of color is accelerating, deepening racial and economic inequality.

At a time when New Yorkers and working people across the country are struggling under the weight of a historic affordability crisis, the federal government should be strengthening protections against financial exploitation—not dismantling them. Congress must act boldly to restore the CFPB’s leadership, staffing, funding, enforcement authority, and independence so that it can once again fulfill the mission Congress gave it.

Sincerely,

Andy Morrison, Associate Director
New Economy Project
121 W 27th, St #804
New York, NY 10001