

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

September 16, 2009

The Honorable Peter L. McClintock
Acting Inspector General
Office of Inspector General
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 3rd Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20416

Dear Acting Inspector General McClintock:

We write to express concern regarding the activities of the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (“ACORN”) and the organization’s receipt of federal funds. As you are probably aware, states and localities have issued indictments related to activities by ACORN employees and volunteers during last fall’s election.¹ In addition, the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform issued a minority staff report alleging that ACORN may have engaged in serious wrongdoing.

ACORN and its affiliates have received over \$53 million of taxpayer dollars from 1994 to the present.² In 2006, the Small Business Administration (“SBA”) disbursed \$25,000 in loans to ACORN affiliates.³

We are requesting that you review the SBA’s grant and loan-making to ACORN and its affiliates. Specifically, we request that you investigate whether SBA has appropriate oversight mechanisms in place for all grants or loans SBA has made to ACORN. We also request that, for each grant or loan an ACORN-affiliated entity received pursuant to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, SBA determine its oversight plan to ensure that grant funds or loans are spent in a manner consistent with the legislation.

Additionally, we request that you ensure that ACORN and its affiliates used SBA funds in accordance with the terms of the grant or loan. If your review concludes there is evidence that ACORN and its affiliates misused funds, I ask that you refer such evidence

¹ Steve Friess, *Acorn Charged in Voter Registration Fraud Case in Nevada*, NEW YORK TIMES, May 5, 2009.

² Kevin Mooney, *ACORN got \$53 million in federal funds since 94, now eligible for up to \$8 billion more*, WASH. EXAMINER, May 6, 2009, available at <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/columns/special-editorial-reports/ACORN-got-53-million-in-federal-funds-since-94-now-eligible-for-up-to-8-billion-more-44406217.html> (last visited May 8, 2009).

³ OMB WATCH, available at: http://www.fedspending.org/faads/faads.php?reptype=r&database=faads&record_id=9383621&detail=3&datype=T&sortby=i (last visited June 9, 2009).

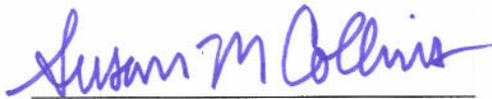
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to the Commission's Suspension and Debarment Official for a determination of whether or not ACORN and its affiliates need to be placed on the federal government's Excluded Parties List.

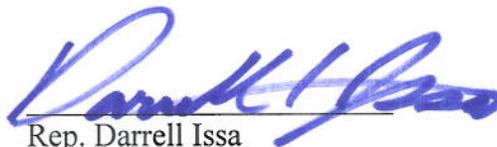
For purposes of your investigation, ACORN and its affiliates includes but are not limited to: ACORN, Project Vote/Voting for America, Inc., CCI, Citizens Services Inc. ("CSI"), ACORN Housing Corporation ("AHC"), ACORN Community Labor Organizing Center ("ACLOC"), American Institute for Social Justice ("AISJ"), SEIU Local 100, SEIU Local 880, ACORN Institute, ACORN Votes, and Communities Voting Together ("CVT").

Thank you for your attention to these matters. Please provide updates to Daniel Epstein of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform staff at (202) 225-5074 or Ivy Johnson of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs staff at (202) 224-0609 on the status of your investigation.

Sincerely,



Senator Susan M. Collins
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland
Security and Government Affairs



Rep. Darrell Issa
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Oversight
and Government Reform

cc: Chairman Edolphus Towns