



March 10th, 2020

Dear Senator:

We write in opposition to the nomination of Kipp Kranbuhl to serve as Assistant Secretary for Financial Markets at the Department of Treasury.

As Assistant Secretary for Financial Markets Mr. Kranbuhl would have broad responsibility for policies regarding financial regulation and financial markets, and for critical decisions regarding housing finance. Unfortunately, his career is marred by a record of supporting dangerous deregulatory policies that have left our financial system ill equipped to face the economic challenges it is now confronted by. This includes efforts to weaken the Volcker rule that will further damage the resiliency of major financial institutions and a housing policy that treats market deregulation as the solution to our nation's housing affordability crisis. He has endorsed rolling back crucial fair housing protections and undermining the enforcement of laws against discrimination, measures that threaten to make a bad situation even worse for millions of the most vulnerable people in the country.

In recent years, private equity and other large corporate owners have bought up a growing number of manufactured housing communities and increased rents dramatically in order to generate outsize profits. These rent and fee increases – sometimes as much as 70% – present an unmanageable cost burden for residents and threaten access to a major source of affordable housing in rural, suburban and urban areas across the country. In response to a series of questions about what role the federal government should have in maintaining the affordability and accessibility of housing, and of manufactured housing in particular, Mr. Kranbuhl failed to even acknowledge the dangers residents face because of the current private equity model. Instead, he repeatedly referred to the Administration's actions to remove alleged "regulatory barriers" as the solution.

Taken in total, Mr. Kranbuhl's policy impulses would harm families that are already struggling to afford shelter. At a time when global markets are in turmoil, we should not confirm as Under Secretary of the Treasury for Financial Markets someone who would roll back consumer protections, enable banks to engage in risky activities with customer's savings, and is impervious to the impact that skyrocketing rents are having on hardworking Americans. At this moment, when there is a clear need for effective financial regulation to protect the public interest, we urge you to reject this nomination.

Many thanks for your attention. For more information please contact Linda Jun, Senior Policy Counsel (linda@ourfinancialsecurity.org)