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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mick Mulvaney
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20503

April 11, 2018

Dear Mr. Mulvaney:

I write to follow up on questions I asked you earlier today in the Financial Services Committee hearing, “The 2018 Semi-Annual Report of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection.”¹ In particular, I seek further information on the physical design changes you have made to Bureau offices, including to your own office. I am concerned that these changes limit the transparency of senior officials at the Bureau and create an appearance of impropriety.

During this morning’s hearing I raised the importance of transparency and accountability at the Bureau. I noted that during your time in Congress you were critical of what you described as the Bureau’s lack of accountability. This criticism has continued during your time at the Bureau. In remarks to state attorneys general at the National Association of Attorneys General annual winter meeting on February 28, 2018, you said: “We are also going to spend a little more time on things like accountability, transparency, and collaboration.”² Additionally, in written testimony you submitted in advance of today’s hearing you wrote: “My job is to...ensure we are accountable to the American people.”³

I then asked you whether upon your arrival at the Bureau you had frosted the glass walls of your office, and I showed you a picture of an office with frosted glass. You confirmed that you had frosted the glass of your office and that the picture I showed you was of your office. I suggested that obscuring your activities behind frosted glass was antithetical to your professed goals of increased transparency and I asked you a series of additional questions about the office space at the Bureau including whether you knew how much it cost to frost the glass. In response to my questioning you disclosed that 13 other offices at the CFPB were frosted.

¹ <https://financialservices.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=403285>

² <https://www.c-span.org/video/?441853-4/consumer-financial-protection-bureau-acting-director-mick-mulvaney>

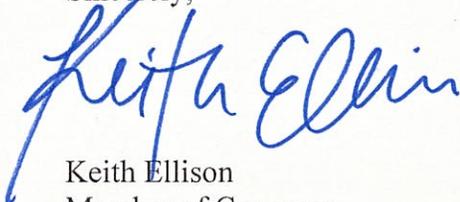
³ <https://financialservices.house.gov/uploadedfiles/hhrg-115-ba00-wstate-mmulvaney-20180411.pdf>

In order to gain additional clarity on the questions I asked you in this morning's hearing and to better understand the scope of the physical design changes you have made to more than a dozen offices at the CFPB, please provide me with answers to the following questions by April 18, 2018.

1. Please confirm whether you directed Bureau officials to frost the glass in your office and if so, on what date you ordered these changes.
2. Please confirm that 13 offices at the CFPB have frosted glass. Please identify the location of each office with frosted glass. For each office with frosted glass, please provide the date on which the order was placed to frost the glass and the date on which the project was completed.
3. Please identify all individuals who occupy offices with frosted glass. Please also specify whether the individual is a political appointee or a member of the civil service. For each individual who occupies an office with frosted glass, please identify the date on which that individual was hired.
4. How much did it cost to frost each office? Please provide both the cost per office and the total cost across all offices. Please provide any documentation of payment, including itemized receipts.
5. Beginning in 2010, the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) required that all new federal building construction and substantial renovation projects meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification standards for sustainability.⁴ Please confirm that the offices with frosted glass walls at the Bureau continue to meet the building's LEED Gold certification standards. Please provide written documentation of this confirmation from the U.S. GSA.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this letter. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or my staff with any questions.

Sincerely,



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress

⁴ <https://www.gsa.gov/node/78234>