

Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection
1700 G Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20552



June 26, 2019

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Warren,

I write in response to your letter of June 25, 2019, regarding Paul Watkins, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's (Bureau's) Assistant Director for the Office of Innovation. Mr. Watkins is eminently qualified for the position he holds, having come to the Bureau from the Arizona Office of the Attorney General, where he was in charge of the office's financial technology initiatives. Mr. Watkins was hired in accordance with all applicable federal laws.

As I have communicated before to the public and directly to the Bureau's workforce, eliminating discrimination and harassment and building and retaining a diverse and inclusive workforce are top priorities for me as a leader, and important values to me as a person. The Bureau workforce represents many backgrounds, identities, and perspectives, and that is indispensable to achieving our mission.

I am working hard to build a team incorporating our diverse skills, capabilities, and perspectives focused on our mission. As such, I will not countenance unfounded, gratuitous attacks on any Bureau staff.

Sincerely,

Kathleen L. Kraninger
Director