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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND
URBAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6075

May 3, 2023

Mr. Mark Bialek
Inspector General
Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System
20th and Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20551

Dear Inspector General Bialek:


We invite you to appear before the U.S. Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs' Subcommittee on Economic Policy to testify at a hearing entitled "Strengthening Accountability at the Federal Reserve: Lessons and Opportunities for Reform." The hearing is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at 2:30 pm in Dirksen Senate Office Building 538.

This hearing will examine the Federal Reserve's (Fed's) role in overseeing Silicon Valley Bank prior to its abrupt failure in March 2023 and consider potential legislative reforms that strengthen transparency and accountability at the Fed, including proposals to designate the Fed Inspector General as a Senate-confirmed presidential appointee and to subject the Federal Reserve Banks to the Freedom of Information Act.

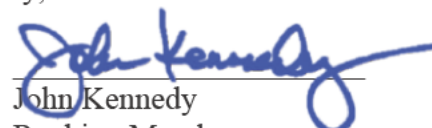
We have long expressed concerns about insufficient transparency around Fed policies and programs, unresponsiveness to Congressional information requests, and an overall lack of accountability at the Federal Reserve Board and regional Reserve Banks. The Fed's ongoing inability or unwillingness to meaningfully address these concerns threatens to undermine the public's confidence in the Fed and the credibility of the Fed's policymaking. The recent bank collapses, moreover, bring into stark relief the consequences of the Fed's failures and the need for structural reforms.

As Inspector General of the Fed, you have unique insight into these areas of interest. Your testimony will provide Congress and the public with a better understanding of the Fed's organization and governance, the regulatory and supervisory failures that contributed to the failures of Silicon Valley Bank, and the impacts of potential reforms to the Federal Reserve System.

If you have any questions regarding this hearing, please contact [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Thank you for your cooperation.


Elizabeth Warren
Chair
Economic Policy Subcommittee

Sincerely,


John Kennedy
Ranking Member
Economic Policy Subcommittee