

United States House of Representatives  
Committee on Financial Services  
Washington, D.C. 20515

November 7, 2016

Mr. David S. Bunton  
President  
The Appraisal Foundation  
1155 15<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Suite 1111  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Bunton:

The Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance will hold a hearing entitled “Modernizing Appraisals: A Regulatory Review and the Future of the Industry” on Wednesday, November 16, 2016 in Room 2128 of the Rayburn House Office Building. I am writing to confirm your invitation to participate at this hearing.

The hearing will examine (1) the effectiveness of the Appraisal Subcommittee of the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council, which was created by the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (FIRREA); (2) the impact on consumers and stakeholders of the Dodd-Frank Act’s provisions relating to appraisals; and (3) the role of appraisals in a 21<sup>st</sup> century marketplace

Your testimony should discuss the appraisal regulatory structure, including how it existed prior to FIRREA and the federal government’s current role, as well as potential suggestions for the future of appraisal oversight. Please also address the impact of the Dodd-Frank Act on the current regulatory system, stakeholders, and consumers. Finally, your testimony should examine how best to:

- Explore alternative home valuation methods that could simplify the home buying process;
- Address the appraiser shortage and the impact of licensed versus certified appraiser requirements;
- Apply and set the *de minimus* value threshold required for Federally Related Transactions; and
- Streamline the current federal regulatory regime.

Finally, please discuss whether the current federal regulatory system – including the Appraisal Subcommittee – should be replaced with a state-based regulatory structure and what impact such a change would have on consumers and the mortgage finance system.

Please read the following material carefully. It is intended as a guide to your rights and obligations as a witness under the rules of the Committee on Financial Services.

***The Form of your Testimony.*** Under the Rules of the Committee on Financial Services, each witness who is to testify before the Committee or its subcommittees must file with the Clerk of the Committee a written statement of proposed testimony of any

reasonable length. Please also include with the testimony a current resume summarizing education, experience and affiliations pertinent to the subject matter of the hearing. This must be filed at least two business days before your appearance. Please note that changes to the written statement will not be permitted after the hearing begins. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the exclusion of your written testimony from the record. Your oral testimony should not exceed five minutes and should summarize your written remarks. The Chair reserves the right to exclude from the printed record any supplemental materials submitted with a written statement due to space limitations or printing expense.

***Submission of your Testimony.*** Please submit at least 50 copies of your proposed written statement to the Clerk of the Committee not less than two business days in advance of your appearance. These copies should be delivered to: The Committee on Financial Services, Attn: Committee Clerk, 2129 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Due to heightened security restrictions, many common forms of delivery experience significant delays in delivery to the Committee. This includes packages sent via the U.S. Postal Service, Federal Express, UPS, and other similar carries, which typically arrive 3 to 5 days later than normal. The United States Capitol Police have specifically requested that the Committee refuse deliveries by courier. The best method of delivery of your testimony is to have an employee from your organization deliver your testimony in an unsealed package to the address above. If you are unable to comply with this procedure, please contact the Committee to discuss alternative methods for delivery of your testimony.

The rules of the Committee require, to the extent practicable, that you also submit your written testimony in electronic form. The preferred method of submission of testimony in electronic form is to send it via electronic mail to [fsctestimony@mail.house.gov](mailto:fsctestimony@mail.house.gov). The electronic copy of your testimony may be in any major file format, including WordPerfect, Microsoft Word, or ASCII text for either Windows or Macintosh. Your electronic mail message should specify in the subject line the date and the Committee or subcommittee before which you are scheduled to testify. You may also submit testimony in electronic form on a disk or CD-ROM at the time of delivery of the copies of your written testimony. Submission of testimony in electronic form facilitates the production of the printed hearing record and posting of your testimony on the Committee's Internet site.

***Information about You.*** The rules of the Committee and the Rules of the House require that a witness appearing before the Committee or its subcommittees must, to the greatest extent practicable, include with his/her written testimony a current resume summarizing education, experience and affiliations pertinent to the subject matter of the hearing. In addition, to the extent practicable, each witness appearing in a non-governmental capacity must disclose the amount and source of Federal grants or contracts received within the current and prior two fiscal years. If a witness represents an organization, he/she must provide the same information with regard to the organization. The information disclosed must be relevant to the subject matter of the hearing and a witness' representational capacity at the hearing.

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Witnesses are not required to disclose Federal entitlement payments such as Social Security, Medicare, or other income support payments (such as crop or commodity support payments). To assist you in complying with these rules, I have enclosed a form that you may complete and attach to your testimony. An electronic version of this form is available from the Committee's website at <http://financialservices.house.gov>. You can also fulfill the disclosure requirement by submitting the information in some other form or format.

***Your Rights as a Witness.*** Under the Rules of the House, witnesses may be accompanied by their own counsel to advise them concerning their constitutional rights. I reserve the right to place any witness under oath. Finally, a witness may obtain a transcript copy of his/her testimony given in open, public session, or in a closed session only when authorized by the Committee or subcommittee. However, by appearing before the Committee or its subcommittees, you authorize the Committee to make technical, grammatical, and typographical corrections to the transcript in accordance with the rules of the Committee and the House.

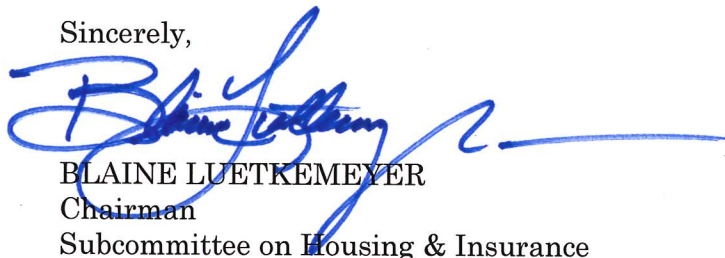
The Rules of the Committee on Financial Services, and the applicable rules of the House, are available on the Committee's website at <http://financialservices.house.gov>. Copies can also be sent to you upon request.

The Committee on Financial Services endeavors to make its facilities accessible to persons with disabilities. If you are in need of special accommodations, or have any questions regarding special accommodations generally, please contact the Committee in advance of the scheduled event (4 business days notice is requested) at (202) 225-7502; TTY: 202-226-1591; or write to the Committee at the address above.

Please note that space in the Committee's hearing room is extremely limited. Therefore, the Committee will only reserve one seat for staff accompanying you during your appearance (a total of two seats). In order to maintain our obligation under the Rules of the House to ensure that Committee hearings are open to the public, we cannot deviate from this policy.

Should you or your staff have any questions or need additional information, please contact Clinton Jones, Tallman Johnson, Chris Brown, or Chase Burgess at (202) 225-7502.

Sincerely,



BLAINE LUETKEMEYER  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Housing & Insurance

JH/cb

cc: The Honorable Emanuel Cleaver, Ranking Member