

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

Majority (202) 225-5051
Minority (202) 225-5074

June 29, 2009

Mr. Henry M. Paulson, Jr.
Johns Hopkins University
School of Advanced International Studies
Suite 810-811
1619 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Paulson:

We are writing to confirm your acceptance of our invitation for you to testify at a hearing of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on **Thursday, July 16, at 10:00 a.m. in room 2154 Rayburn House Office Building**. The purpose of the hearing is to examine events surrounding Bank of America's acquisition of Merrill Lynch and receipt of Federal financial assistance.

In preparation for this hearing, you may wish to review the testimony presented to the Committee on June 11, 2009, by Bank of America CEO Ken Lewis, and on June 25, 2009, by Federal Reserve Board Chairman Ben S. Bernanke. In addition, among the issues you should be prepared to address are the following:

- Did Bank of America need or request the \$15 billion it received from the Federal government in October 2008?
- Did Bank of America decide to acquire Merrill Lynch, or was the acquisition suggested by a government agency?
- How and when did the Federal government become aware of the deteriorating condition of Merrill Lynch?

- What role did the Federal government play in Bank of America's decision to complete the acquisition of Merrill Lynch?
- Did Bank of America need or request the \$20 billion it received from the Federal government in January 2009?
- When, how, and under what circumstances did the Federal government commit to provide additional financial assistance to Bank of America?
- How can the kind of financial disaster this country has experienced over the past year be prevented in the future?

You may submit written testimony for the record, of any reasonable length. In addition to your written testimony, you should be prepared to provide a five minute opening statement and answer questions posed by Members of the Committee.

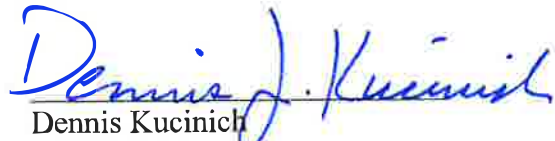
Information for witnesses appearing before the Committee is contained in the enclosed Witness Information Sheet. In particular, please note the procedures for submitting written testimony at least two business days prior to the hearing.

Should you have any questions, please contact John Arlington or Christopher Staszak of the Full Committee staff at 202-225-5051, or Jaron Bourke of the Subcommittee staff at 202-225-6427.

Sincerely,



Edolphus Towns
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform



Dennis Kucinich
Chairman, Subcommittee on
Domestic Policy

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Darrell Issa
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

Witness Information Sheet

The following is a summary of some of the pertinent rules and procedures applicable to witnesses testifying before the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform:

- Witnesses should provide 100 copies of their written testimony to Carla Hultberg, Chief Clerk, 2157 Rayburn House Office Building, no later than 10:00 a.m. two business days prior to the hearing. Witnesses should also provide their statement by this date in electronic format, either as a CD or via e-mail to carla.hultberg@mail.house.gov.
- At the hearing, each witness will be asked to summarize his or her written testimony in five minutes in order to maximize the time available for discussion and questions.
- House Rule XI clause 2(g)(4) requires that witnesses appearing in a nongovernmental capacity submit to the Committee in advance of the hearing “a curriculum vitae and a disclosure of the amount and source (by agency and program) of each Federal grant (or subgrant thereof) received during the current fiscal year or either of the two previous fiscal years by the witness or by an entity represented by the witness.”
- The Committee does not provide financial reimbursement for witness travel or accommodations. Witnesses with extenuating circumstances; however, may submit a written request for such reimbursements to Robin Butler, Financial Administrator, 2157 Rayburn House Office Building, at least one week prior to the hearing. Reimbursements will not be made without prior approval.
- Witnesses with disabilities should contact Committee staff to arrange any necessary accommodations.
- Committee Rules governing this hearing are online at www.oversight.house.gov.
- The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee in the U.S. House of Representatives. The jurisdiction of the Committee is set forth in the House Rules X, clauses 1(m), 2, 3, and 4.

For inquiries regarding these rules and procedures, please contact the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform at (202) 225-5051.