



United States House of Representatives
One Hundred Eighteenth Congress
Committee on Financial Services
2129 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

November 13, 2023

Tyler Smith
Acting Inspector General
Financial Deposit Insurance Corporation
Office of Inspector General
3501 Fairfax Drive,
Arlington, VA 22226

Dear Mr. Smith:

Numerous disturbing allegations have been made regarding the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's (FDIC) workplace culture. Reports allege that the agency maintains a culture that perpetuates sexual harassment, misogyny, and other acts of misconduct – a severe departure from the agency's effective operations to execute its mission.¹ According to the *Wall Street Journal*, "reports of the agency's problems stretch back more than a decade and have persisted through changes in leadership, administrations and internal investigations."²

As a partner in oversight, the FDIC Office of Inspector General (OIG) plays a vital role in oversight of the FDIC against potential waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement of FDIC programs and operations. In a July 2020 report, your office highlighted that the "FDIC had not established an adequate sexual harassment prevention program."³ The report, along with recent reporting seems to confirm the longstanding pattern of FDIC employees creating an unsafe work environment for their colleagues and a failure of the FDIC to take appropriate corrective action.

The Committee on Financial Services (Committee) takes these allegations very seriously, and any misconduct must be addressed. This Committee not only has a duty to oversee the execution of the laws by the Administration, but we must also ensure that civil servants of our financial regulators are able to perform their duties without fear of harassment or retaliation.

The Committee has jurisdiction to oversee the activities of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation pursuant to Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives. To better understand the investigative efforts of the FDIC OIG into these matters, please provide a briefing

¹ Rebecca Ballhaus, *Strip Clubs, Lewd Photos and a Boozy Hotel: The Toxic Atmosphere at Bank Regulator FDIC*, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (Nov. 13, 2023), <https://www.wsj.com/us-news/fdic-toxic-atmosphere-strip-clubs-lewd-photos-boozy-hotel-12c89da7>.

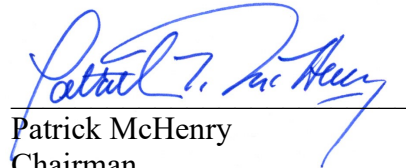
² *Id.*

³ FED. DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORP. OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GEN., EVAL-20-006, PREVENTING AND ADDRESSING SEXUAL HARASSMENT (2020).

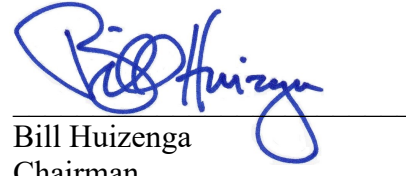
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to Committee staff, no later than November 27, 2023. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

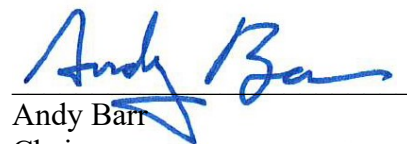
Sincerely,



Patrick McHenry
Chairman



Bill Huizenga
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight
and Investigations



Andy Barr
Chairman
Subcommittee on Financial Institutions
and Monetary Policy