



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

January 12, 2012

The Honorable Michael C. Burgess
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Burgess:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the implementation of Section 619 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the Dodd-Frank Act), commonly referred to as the Volcker Rule. I agree that the Volcker Rule is an important component of our collective effort to strengthen the U.S. financial system. The Treasury Department supports implementation of the rule in a manner that reduces unnecessary risk in the banking system, preserves market liquidity and protects traditional banking activities.

Consistent with your request, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and federal banking agencies recently announced a 30-day extension of the public comment period on their proposed rules implementing the Volcker Rule. Their comment period will now be 120 days in total.

You also requested that the SEC and federal banking agencies consider guidance from the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) in the final rule. The CFTC's public comment period will end approximately one month after the SEC and federal banking agencies' comment period. Although these comment periods are not perfectly aligned, I can assure you that the agencies are closely coordinating on the substance of these rules. This is evidenced by the CFTC's notice of proposed rulemaking, which states that it is substantively equivalent to the other agencies' proposal: "the CFTC is adopting the entire text of the proposed common rules section from the [joint rule proposed by the SEC and federal banking agencies] as part of its proposed rule." I can reaffirm the Treasury Secretary's commitment to fulfill his statutory mandate to coordinate this interagency rulemaking process and make every effort to ensure that the rules promulgated by the agencies are consistent and comparable, to the extent possible.

Thank you again for your letter. I look forward to working together to make our financial system more stable and competitive.

Sincerely,

Mary J. Miller

Assistant Secretary for Financial Markets