June 21, 2011

The Hon. Spencer Bachus, III
Chairman
House Financial Services Committee
2129 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC  20515

The Hon. Barney Frank
Ranking Member
House Financial Services Committee
2252 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC  20515

Re:  Mark-up on June 21, 2011

Dear Chairman Bachus and Ranking Member Frank:

On behalf of the California Public Employees’ Retirement System (CalPERS), I write to express our view about several bills the Committee on Financial Services is scheduled to mark up on June 22, 2011.

CalPERS is the largest public pension fund in the United States with approximately $235 billion in global assets providing retirement security to more than 1.6 million public workers, retirees, their families, and beneficiaries. As a significant long-term capital provider in the U.S. markets, CalPERS is reliant upon effective and comprehensive regulation designed to protect investors. As such, we support the regulatory reforms enacted in the Dodd–Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (Dodd-Frank). However, we are concerned that a number of the bills under consideration would undermine several important financial regulatory reforms. Here is a brief summary of CalPERS concerns.

H.R. 1082 – The Small Business Capital Access and Job Preservation Act

This bill would exempt advisors to private equity funds from new registration and reporting requirements. CalPERS considers that all private fund advisors should be required to register with the SEC. Without this, investors may be deprived of the timely and accurate information they need to ascertain the suitability of an investment fund given their financial objectives and risk tolerance.

H.R. 1062 – The Burdensome Data Collection Relief Act

This bill would repeal section 953(b) of Dodd-Frank, which requires issuers to disclose the ratio of median employee compensation to that of the chief executive officer. CalPERS has long called for greater transparency and accountability relating to executive compensation and believes that the disclosures required by section 953(b) would provide shareowners a valuable metric.

This bill would repeal section 939G of Dodd-Frank and removes the regulatory exemption from Securities Act section 11 liability for credit rating agencies (provided in Securities Act Rule 4369g)). CalPERS strongly supports section 939G of Dodd-Frank and opposes efforts to repeal the provisions.

We appreciate your willingness to consider our views as you move forward. Should your staff have any further questions, please contact me directly at (916) 795-9672 (anne_simpson@calpers.ca.gov) or Don Marlais of Lussier, Gregor, Vienna & Associates – our federal representatives – at (703) 888-4522 (dmarlais@lgva.net).

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

ANNE SIMPSON
Senior Portfolio Manager
Global Equity

cc: Joseph A. Dear, Chief Investment Officer
Janine Guillot, Chief Operating Investment Officer
Eric Baggesen, Senior Investment Officer, Global Equity
Bill McGrew, Portfolio Manager, Corporate Governance
Danny Brown, Chief, Office of Governmental Affairs