Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 21, 2009

The Honorable Kenneth M. Donohue
Inspector General
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street S.W.,
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Inspector General Donohue,

We are writing to you to express our serious concerns that the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) has and may be continuing to inappropriately use federal funds in the conduct of its activities. Therefore, we respectfully request that you immediately undertake a thorough and comprehensive audit of its financial activities and use of these funds. Specifically, we request that you conduct an accounting of funds spent over the last decade: how much, what for, and what efforts were made to find out if the funds actually accomplished what they were intended to do.

In the wake of new, but not unfamiliar, reports of criminal and illicit activity involving ACORN, we believe it is imperative that this organization's finances be reviewed and investigated by your Department to determine whether improper and illegal use of federal dollars has occurred since ACORN first began receiving federal funds in 1994. The American taxpayers deserve to know how their hard-earned dollars that this organization received were used and for what specific purpose.

On Friday, September 11th, the U.S. Census Bureau severed its ties with ACORN, one of several community groups it was partnering with to conduct our nation's survey. On Monday, September 14th, the U.S. Senate voted 83-7 to not allow ACORN to receive any federal funding from your Department for low-income housing programs. On Wednesday, September 16th, over 130 House Members signed a letter to President Obama requesting that he use his executive authority to terminate all federal funds to ACORN. On Thursday, September 17th, 345 Members voted to eliminate federal funding of ACORN. Clearly, significant concern about this organization's activities and use of federal funding exists.

We are hopeful that you will immediately undertake an audit of this organization's use of federal taxpayer dollars and report your findings as soon as possible. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter and I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Sincerely,

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Pete Sessions

John Campbell

cc: The Honorable Shaun Donovan
Secretary of Housing and Urban Development