



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

October 22, 2008

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

In light of recent allegations of voter registration fraud perpetrated by the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN), and an investigation initiated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), I respectfully request that you use your authority to block all federal funding directed to this organization and its affiliates until an investigation is complete. I further request that you direct all federal agencies that have released federal block grant funds to states and localities to not release any funds to ACORN and its affiliates until the completion of the investigation.

A preliminary analysis of federal data by my staff has determined that ACORN has received more than \$31 million in direct funding from the federal government since 1998, and has likely received substantially more indirectly through states and localities that receive federal block grants. These expenditures are troubling in light of the serious questions that have been raised about ACORN and its conduct throughout the country.

ACORN has been accused of voter registration fraud in at least 15 states. While this organization has flooded voter registration offices with multiple voter registration applications for the same individual, applications with fraudulent names, and even applications for cartoon characters and professional football players, the applications of honest people who only want to exercise their constitutional rights are unnecessarily delayed.

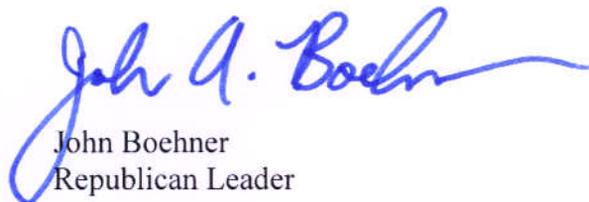
According to the *Associated Press*, the FBI launched an investigation of ACORN for conducting a “coordinated national scam” following raids of several ACORN offices in different states. Today the *New York Times* reported that an internal report written by an ACORN attorney expressed concerns about “potentially improper use of charitable dollars for political purposes.” The same internal report found that the close relationship between ACORN and a supposedly nonpartisan affiliate Project Vote “made it impossible to document that Project Vote’s money had been used in a strictly nonpartisan manner” and that, “we may not be able to prove that 501(c)3 resources are not being directed to specific regions based on impermissible partisan considerations.”

The same *New York Times* story reported that ACORN “faces demands for back taxes by the Internal Revenue Service and various state tax authorities.” The internal ACORN document referenced by the *Times* also provides an account of a recent embezzlement scam at the organization that differs from the one that ACORN has provided publicly.

ACORN, which for years has been closely connected with Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, also appears to have played a key role in the irresponsible schemes that led to the current financial meltdown that caused Congress to pass a \$700 billion economic rescue bill. I and a number of my colleagues have requested that the U.S. Department of Justice conduct a complete investigation in this area as well.

It is evident that ACORN is incapable of using federal funds in a manner that is consistent with the law. Immediate action is necessary to ensure that no additional tax dollars are directed to ACORN while it is under investigation. Until such investigations are complete, ACORN should not receive another penny of American taxpayers’ money. I thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



John Boehner
Republican Leader