

news release
from
BARNEY FRANK

Congressman, 4th District, Massachusetts

October 22, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Peter Kovar 202-225-5931

FRANK URGES RELEASE OF HUD INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT

U.S. Congressman Barney Frank, the senior Democrat on the House Financial Services Committee, sent the attached letters this week urging the public release of a recent report prepared by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Inspector General regarding the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight's investigation of Fannie Mae.

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U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Financial Services
2129 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

October 20, 2004

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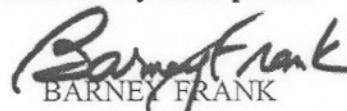
ROBERT U. FOSTER III
STAFF DIRECTOR

Mr. Kenneth Donohue
Inspector General
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 Seventh Street, SW, Room 8256
Washington, DC 20410-4508

Dear Mr. Donohue:

I am greatly troubled by a recent press account that a report prepared by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Inspector General (OIG) concerning alleged leaks by the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight (OFHEO) may have been selectively shared with a number of Members of Congress. Just as I argued in similar circumstances that OFHEO's report on possible problems at Fannie Mae should be made public, a similar principal should be applied to your report about OFHEO. Accordingly, I request that this report immediately be made public.

If the OIG report contains official findings that OFHEO did something wrong, those findings should be publicly disclosed and publicly discussed. If the OIG has Privacy Act concerns, it would appear that those concerns could be adequately addressed by quickly redacting any information covered by the Privacy Act. If the information contained in the media account is correct that this report has been shared with others outside your office, one would assume that the report is already redacted or that Privacy Act concerns are not paramount. If there is some other legal impediment to making the report public, please advise me immediately what that impediment is and how it can be removed. If there is no legal obstacle, I ask that the report be immediately made public.


BARNEY FRANK
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October 20, 2004

The Honorable Christopher S. Bond
Chairman
Subcommittee on VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
130 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Kit:

I am greatly troubled by a recent press account that a report prepared at your request by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Inspector General (OIG) concerning alleged leaks by the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight (OFHEO) may have been selectively shared with a number of Members of Congress. Just as I argued in similar circumstances that OFHEO's report on possible problems at Fannie Mae should be made public, a similar principal should be applied to the report about OFHEO. Accordingly, I request that this report immediately be made public.

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BARNEY FRANK
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