BIG JOINS NAACP URGING THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (H.R.) PASSAGE OF H.R. 1500, ‘THE CONSUMERS FIRST ACT’ INTRODUCED BY CONGRESSWOMAN MAXINE WATERS (CA)

WHEREAS, the National Organization of Blacks In Government (BIG), was incorporated in 1976, as a 501[c]3 non-profit organization to, educate and advocate on behalf of Federal, State and Municipal government employees and today, BIG seeks to represent 2.5 million public and private civil servants by continuing to address discrimination in the workplace and its effect on public service; and

WHEREAS, on May 22, 2019, concerned parties in support of the NAACP and Washington Bureau Director, Hillary O. Shelton, called on the U.S. House of Representatives to pass legislation to restore and strengthen the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB); and

WHEREAS, H.R.1500, The Consumers First Act, is pending consideration by the Full House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, the CFPB was created to protect all Americans from schemes designed to strip wealth from unsuspecting people. Many of the initiatives undertaken by the CFPB were good starts towards protecting Americans as they tried to build wealth, or in too many cases, just make ends meet; and

WHEREAS, CFPB was created to help consumers navigate the often-complicated world of finances; to ensure that high-cost, unsustainable loans of any kind, including (but not limited to) home mortgages, loans for automobile purchases, getting a higher education, applying for a line of credit or covering a family emergency were a thing of the past; and

WHEREAS, the CFPB was responsible to ensure that loans were equally and fairly made without regard to a person’s gender, age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or preference, veterans or disability status, or station in life; and

WHEREAS, the CFPB was tasked with helping to educate the consumer and in its first 5 years, the CFPB was on the right track. It returned $12 billion to over 30 million harmed American consumers, and had accomplished several other consumer-friendly steps; and

WHEREAS, sadly today, the CFPB is but an emasculated shell of its former, vibrant, pro-consumer self. In just two years, Congress and the current Administration have neutered the CFPB and in doing so, they have dramatically decreased the protections we were able to gain; and
WHEREAS, to reverse this terrible trend, Congresswoman Maxine Waters (CA) has introduced H.R. 1500, the Consumer First Act which would re-establish the full duties of the enumerated offices, including help to put American consumers back in charge.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:


1. The BIG National President will send a letter to NAACP Washington Bureau Director Hillary O. Shelton advising him of this resolution and that BIG National ask all of its members to contact and email their legislative Representatives at [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) and [www.Senate.gov](http://www.Senate.gov), urging passage of H.R. 1500 the Consumer First Act;

2. The BIG President will send a letter to the Honorable Maxine Waters thanking her for introducing this legislation and BIG’s unwavering support; and

3. The BIG National President will send a letter to the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, House Speaker, asking her to support passage of H.R. 1500 - The Consumer First Act.

Submitted by:

**Matthew F. Fogg**

Dr. Matthew F. Fogg  
BIG National 2nd Vice President  
BIG Region XI - Heritage Chapter President  
Chief Deputy United States Marshal, ret.  
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