JEB HENSARLING
TEXAS, 5TH DISTRICT

DEPUTY REPUBLICAN WHIP

COMMITTEES:
BUDGET
VICE RANKING MEMBER

FINANCIAL SERVICES
RANKING MEMBER,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL
INSTITUTIONS AND CONSUMER CREDIT

DISTRICT OFFICES:
6510 ABRAMS ROAD
SUITE 243
DALLAS, TX 75231
(214) 349–9996

702 EAST CORSICANA STREET
ATHENS, TX 75751
(903) 675–8288

WEB OFFICE:
www.hensarling.house.gov

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

June 19, 2009

Professor Elizabeth Warren
Chair
Congressional Oversight Panel
732 North Capitol Street, NW
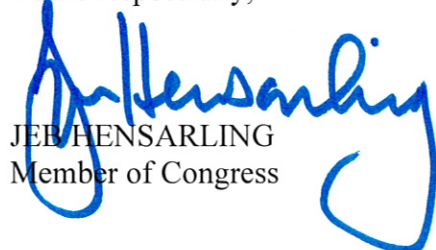Washington, DC 20401-0002

Dear Professor Warren:

According to press reports, recent actions of the Obama Administration have called into question the ability of SIGTARP to discharge its mandated duties and responsibilities in a fair and reasonable manner. By implication, such actions also threaten the effectiveness of the Congressional Oversight Panel in its duty to promote taxpayer accountability and transparency in the Troubled Asset Relief Program. I am asking the panel to launch an immediate investigation into this serious allegation.

Specifically, press reports indicate that the Administration has asserted the attorney-client privilege or used other legal subterfuge to deny SIGTARP's access to documents and other materials that it considers critical to the timely and effective discharge of its responsibilities. It is my understanding that this disagreement has evolved into a debate between the Administration and SIGTARP as to whether SIGTARP is subject to the control and supervision of the Administration. Any threat or appearance of a threat to SIGTARP's independence will undermine and corrupt its important mission. SIGTARP must be given free and open access to all TARP related documents and other materials held by or accessible to the Administration.

I strongly encourage the panel to promptly investigate these troubling reports and to report its findings to the American taxpayers.

Yours respectfully,

JEB HENSARLING
Member of Congress