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April 12, 2011

The Honorable Spencer Bachus  
Chairman  
Committee on Financial Services  
2129 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Barney Frank  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Financial Services  
B301 C Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Bachus and Ranking Member Frank:

I write to request a timely hearing to address reports of American citizens living overseas being denied access to both domestic and foreign financial institutions. In the 111th Congress, Congressman Joe Wilson and I requested a similar hearing following a series of letters we sent to the Treasury Department under the current and previous Administrations. Despite assurances that no current federal banking laws or regulations preclude Americans living abroad access to foreign or domestic financial services, this continues to be a problem for U.S. citizens overseas.

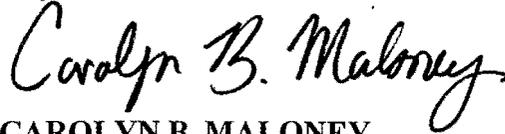
As a Co-Chair of the Americans Abroad Caucus, I continue to hear reports that taxpaying American citizens living abroad are increasingly being denied access to banking services. U.S. citizens living abroad have traced the denial of services of U.S. banks to provisions of the Patriot Act known as the Know-Your-Customer regulations. I understand that some banks have used these regulations to close accounts of US citizens who live abroad simply because they do not have a US-based address. In contrast, foreign banks have cited burdensome regulations within the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) as the reason for denying banking services.

Last week, Chair of the Economic and Financial Affairs Council for the European Commission, Hungarian Finance Minister Mr. György Matolcsy, and the EU Commissioner in charge of Taxation, Algirdas Šemeta, sent a joint letter to Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and to Internal Revenue Service Commissioner Douglas H. Shulman, regarding the potential negative effects FATCA would impose on European banks, specifically the costs of compliance and penalties for non-compliance.

In light of the continued reports from overseas Americans as well as recent developments from the European Commission, I hope we can work together to address

some of the specific steps Treasury and the IRS can take to ensure U.S. citizens residing abroad have access to both foreign and domestic banking services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn B. Maloney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**CAROLYN B. MALONEY**  
**Member of Congress**

cc: The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito, Chairman, Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit