

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 25, 2010

The Honorable Timothy Geithner
Secretary
U.S. Department of Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Geithner,

Thank you for your response, dated September 21, 2009, to the letter Reps. Maloney and Wilson, co-chairs of the Americans Abroad Caucus, sent on May 27, 2009 regarding Americans living abroad being denied access to U.S. and foreign banks.

As members of the Americans Abroad Caucus, we have been contacted by Americans living overseas who have been denied accounts or have had existing accounts closed, often with Patriot Act provisions and the lack of a U.S. address cited by financial institutions as cause for denial (see examples in attached document). It is our belief that U.S. banks are using these provisions, whatever their intended effect, as an excuse for denying their services to American citizens abroad.

This continues to be an issue that has spanned several years and over the course of two administrations. We sent a similar letter on this issue on February 20, 2008 and were assured at that time by the previous administration, as you assure us now, that currently there are no American banking laws or regulations preventing Americans living abroad from having accounts with U.S. banks – yet this problem persists.

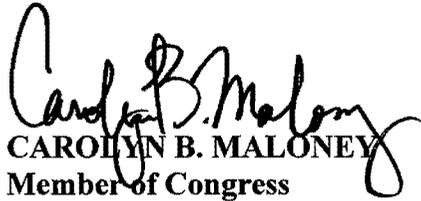
It was also recently brought to our attention that Americans who return to the U.S. for university studies are being denied student loans due to lack of a U.S. address or because a co-signer currently does not live in the U.S. This is yet another example of American citizens living abroad being denied financial services for lack of a U.S. address.

Additionally, we hear from Americans overseas and have read in recent media reports that there continues to be concerns with the new proposed Qualified Intermediary (QI) regulations, that go into effect January 1, 2010. We wish to reiterate our strong support of Administration efforts to fight tax evasion, but our concern is that, as a result of these new rules, foreign banks will deny banking services to American citizens abroad to avoid potential administrative and legal costs to comply.

Americans living abroad are being hit from all sides – unable to bank with U.S. or foreign banks due to U.S. laws and regulations. Americans overseas are selling U.S. products and paying U.S. taxes and are in danger of being completely marginalized by U.S. policies.

We respectfully request that you provide us, in detail, what specific steps the Treasury Department will take to ensure that current U.S. banking laws and regulations do not prevent Americans abroad from accessing the same banking services available to all Americans.

Sincerely,



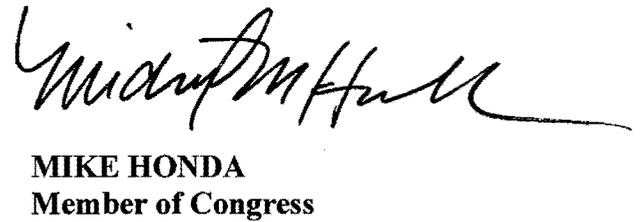
CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress



JOE WILSON
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