

September 7, 2021

The Honorable Janet Yellen  
Secretary of the Treasury  
U.S. Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Yellen:

For months, Republicans in the House of Representatives have sought your testimony to help renters and landlords understand why they are still waiting for the Treasury Department to disburse approximately \$46 billion of COVID emergency rental assistance (ERA) funds. At a hearing in March, you issued a “pledge to work with this Committee” on matters related to oversight of the Department’s response to the pandemic.<sup>1</sup> You subsequently proceeded to avoid answering questions in public on rental assistance and other pandemic relief programs—in fact, you have not appeared before the Committee since. Meanwhile, the need for an effective ERA program has only grown more acute—the Supreme Court struck down the Biden Administration’s unconstitutional attempt to extend a federal moratorium on evictions, and, according to the Treasury Department’s most recent data, less than 11 percent of total ERA funds has been distributed.

In July alone, you missed a statutorily-mandated appearance before this Committee, and held a partisan *ex parte* meeting with Chairwoman Maxine Waters to discuss the Department’s emergency rental assistance program. To put it mildly, you are long overdue to testify and answer questions about how and why the Department has failed to administer ERA funds, and what the Department is doing to get money to renters and landlords on an expedited basis. To that end, I request that you appear and testify on September 10, 2021, when the Committee convenes for a hearing entitled “Protecting Renters During the Pandemic: Reviewing Reforms to Expedite Emergency Rental Assistance.”

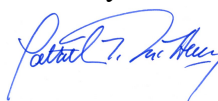
Your posture with respect to your statutory and constitutional obligations to provide information to Congress has prevented this Committee—indeed, several committees—from understanding conditions that are affecting many thousands of our constituents who may have fallen behind on rent due to the pandemic. The White House called for an “all-hands-on-deck effort by state and

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<sup>1</sup> H. Comm. on Fin. Services Hearing: “Oversight of the Treasury Department’s and Federal Reserve’s Pandemic Response,” Testimony of Hon. Janet Yellen, Secretary, Dep’t of the Treasury, 117th Cong. (Mar. 23, 2021).

local governments, courts, community organizations, and the legal community” to reach renters in need.<sup>2</sup> I trust you will consider this an opportunity to join that effort. Please advise immediately as to whether you will accept my invitation to testify before the Committee on September 10, 2021.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patrick McHenry".

Patrick McHenry

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<sup>2</sup> Dep't of Treasury Blog Post, "Emergency Rental Assistance Data Shows Programs Ramping Up, but States and Localities Must Do More to Accelerate Aid" (July 2, 2021), <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/2021-07-02-ERA-Data-Blog-Post-vF.pdf>.