

November 29, 2021

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
Chairman
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
534 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Toomey
Ranking Member
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Brown and Ranking Member Toomey:

The National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) is the trade association for the firearm, ammunition, hunting and recreational shooting sports industry. On behalf of our more than 9,000 member companies nationwide, I am writing to express our strong concerns with the nomination of Dr. Saule T. Omarova to be Comptroller of the Currency and respectfully urge you to oppose advancing her nomination.

During her November 18, 2021, nomination hearing, several senators questioned Dr. Omarova regarding her position on financial discrimination against lawful industries and specifically Operation Choke Point. Dr. Omarova had the opportunity to commit to not repeating the illegal Operation Choke Point discriminatory practices undertaken by the Obama-Biden Administration, yet she dodged what should have been an easy answer and fell short of putting these concerns to rest.

The firearm and ammunition industry is one of the industries that was unfairly targeted by the Obama-Biden Administration and continues to be discriminated against by financial institutions for no reason other than we are engaged in the engaged in the lawful commerce of firearms and ammunition. We found her responses on this issue to be troubling, especially given her prior statements on advocating for similar practices against "socially suboptimal" businesses in her academic work.

NSSF lacks confidence in Dr. Omarova's ability to use the authority of the OCC to ensure fair access. Therefore, we oppose her nomination to be the next Comptroller of the Currency and urge the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs to do the same. Thank you very much for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Lawrence G. Keane