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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND
URBAN AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6075

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September 15, 2009

Senator Christopher J. Dodd
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs
534 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Dodd:

I write to you today to request that you launch an immediate and thorough investigation into the activities of the Association for Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN). Specifically, this committee needs to determine if ACORN is acting legally and ethically in the expenditure of taxpayer dollars and whether the organization should continue to be eligible to receive these funds.

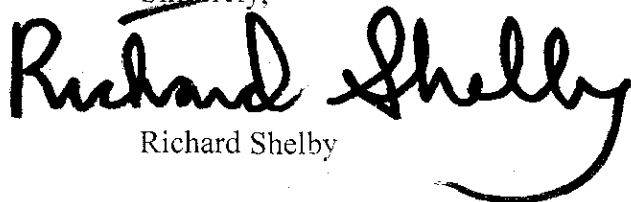
In recent days, numerous news reports have surfaced surrounding: 1) the arrest of individuals in Florida for falsifying voter applications while employed by ACORN, leading up to the 2008 elections; and 2) video of employees in ACORN offices of Baltimore, Maryland, Washington, DC, and Brooklyn, New York, offering to falsify tax documents and to aid in obtaining a mortgage for individuals purporting to be engaged in prostitution and employing underage illegal immigrants.

These scandals add to numerous other reported incidences within the organization over many years including: embezzlement of nearly one million dollars by the brother of the organization's founder; charges of additional voter registration fraud in other states; and the stripping of federal grants following findings that ACORN used federal money to promote legislation.

ACORN has been receiving federal money for decades including millions under the jurisdiction of the Senate Banking Committee and is eligible for additional money now as a result of the stimulus legislation enacted earlier this year. As such, it is vital that the committee undertake a prompt review of the activities of this organization.

I look forward to working with you to ensure the American taxpayer's money is being spent wisely and legally.

Sincerely,



Richard Shelby