

JIM GERLACH

5th District, Pennsylvania

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3806

November 13, 2009

Mr. Darnall Daley Jr.
1751 Garfield Ave
Reading, PA 19610

Dear Mr. Daley Jr.:

Thank you very much for contacting me with your concerns about ACORN receiving federal funds. I appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts with you.

As you know, the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) has been under intense scrutiny in the wake of new, but not unfamiliar, reports of criminal and illicit activity. In many states throughout the U.S., including Pennsylvania, we have seen investigations into ACORN and alleged voter registration fraud. In fact, an ACORN volunteer was charged and convicted in 2006 of voter registration fraud in Berks County. At a time when this organization is facing possible charges in several states for these allegations, I do not believe that the federal government should continue to allow ACORN to receive taxpayer dollars for their activities.

I am very happy to let you know that I have taken several actions to stop federal funds from going to ACORN. I have cosponsored Minority Leader John Boehner's proposed Defund ACORN Act which would cut off all federal funds to the organization. I also signed a letter to President Obama requesting that he use his executive authority to terminate all federal funds to ACORN. On September 17th, 345 Members, both Democrats and Republicans, voted to eliminate federal funding of ACORN. Finally, I wrote a letter, which was signed by 28 of my Financial Services Committee colleagues, requesting that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Inspector General immediately undertake a thorough and comprehensive audit of ACORN's financial activities and use of federal funds. The American taxpayers deserve to know how their hard-earned dollars that this organization received were used and for what specific purpose.

I share your concerns about this organization receiving federal funds and am very hopeful that we can pass legislation that President Obama will sign into law in the very near future that will stop this organization from ever receiving another taxpayer dollar. Please know that I will do all I can to advance this effort.

Again, thank you very much for contacting me on this important issue. If there is anything I can do for you in the future, please do not hesitate to contact me

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With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Gerlach', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Jim Gerlach
Member of Congress

JG:af

P.S. Please visit me on the internet at <http://www.gerlach.house.gov>.
