

As you may know, President Obama recently appointed the director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) and three members of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) without the constitutionally required consent of the Senate. Presidents are allowed to make temporary appointments when the Senate is in recess and unavailable to consider his nominees, but President Obama took an unprecedented step by making temporary appointments even though the Senate is still in session. He might be frustrated that the Senate has objections to some of his nominations, but that does not justify this blatant disregard for the checks and balances of the Constitution.

It is worth noting that Republicans in the Senate have not objected to Richard Cordray personally, but instead, they have major concerns with the design of the CFPB. The CFPB does not have any of the checks often in place for independent agencies, such as a dedicated Inspector General or congressional oversight of its budget. It is an incredibly powerful yet unaccountable federal agency, causing several senators to demand reforms before confirming a director. The President has unfortunately chosen to take unilateral and unconstitutional action rather than resolving his disagreements with the Senate.

Accordingly, I joined many of my fellow members of Congress in writing a [letter](#) to the President expressing our strong objections to his destructive abuse of power. I hope that he will reconsider his actions and decide instead to follow the Constitution by working with the Senate to fill these positions.