

TERRI A. SEWELL
7TH DISTRICT, ALABAMA

1133 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE: (202) 225-2665
FAX: (202) 226-9567

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
RURAL DEVELOPMENT, RESEARCH, BIOTECHNOLOGY,
AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0107

650509

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
SPACE AND AERONAUTICS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
RESEARCH AND SCIENCE EDUCATION

June 17, 2011

SENIOR WHIP

The Honorable Hilda L. Solis
U.S. Department of Labor
Frances Perkins Building
Third Street and Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20210

EXEC. SECRETARIAT
OSEC-DOL
DEPT. OF LABOR
WASH. D.C. 20210

2011 JUN 21 PM 4:35

RECEIVED

Dear Secretary Solis:

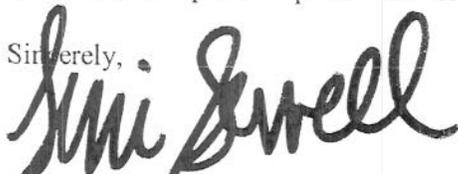
I am writing to express concerns about the Department of Labor's proposed definition of a fiduciary.

I certainly share the same objective: we all want to help Americans invest prudently for their retirement. However, I am concerned about reports that the Department's proposed regulation could actually have the opposite effect, by cutting off millions of middle-income Americans from access to investment services. For example, a recent study concluded over seven million IRAs would lose access to an investment professional by reason of the regulation. Other plan and IRA participants would be forced to pay far more—double in many cases—for investment services.

This is a very serious issue that needs to be studied carefully. In that regard, I am very concerned that the Department did not do a cost analysis regarding the effect on IRAs before proposing the regulation. I am also concerned about the Department's own uncertainty regarding the effects of the regulation on the market.

I urge you to perform the necessary cost/benefit analysis with respect to the regulation. Then, based on the extensive commentary you have received and the results of the cost/benefit analysis, the next step should likely be to repropose the regulation. Reproposing the regulation would also enable the Department to coordinate more effectively with other agencies, such as the SEC, on related fiduciary projects.

I truly believe that working together in a public/private partnership, we can make great progress toward increasing retirement security for Americans. An important step in that regard is to proceed carefully and with maximum public input on this critical issue. Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,


TERRI A. SEWELL
Member of Congress

BIRMINGHAM
TWO 20TH STREET NORTH
SUITE #1130
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35203
PHONE: (205) 254-1960
FAX: (205) 254-1974

DEMOPOLIS
186 FIELD OF DREAMS DRIVE
DEMOPOLIS, AL 36732
PHONE: (334) 287-0860
FAX: (334) 287-0870

LIVINGSTON
205 NORTH WASHINGTON STREET
UWA STATION 40 WEBB HALL 236-237
LIVINGSTON, AL 35470-2099
PHONE: (205) 652-5834
FAX: (205) 652-5935

MARION
300 WASHINGTON STREET
MARION, AL 36756-2336
PHONE: (334) 683-2157
FAX: (334) 683-2201

SELMA
908 ALABAMA AVENUE
FEDERAL BUILDING, SUITE 112
SELMA, AL 36701
PHONE: (334) 877-4414
FAX: (334) 877-4489

TUSCALOOSA
1118 GREENSBORO AVENUE
FEDERAL BUILDING, SUITE 336
TUSCALOOSA, AL 35401
PHONE: (205) 752-5380
FAX: (205) 752-5899