



Occupy the SEC

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Occupy the SEC works to ensure that financial regulators protect the interests of the public, not Wall Street.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Occupy the SEC Urges Congressional Representatives and Senators to Legislate Against Private Sector Bonuses Contingent Upon Acceptance of Government Employment

New York, NY – December 8, 2014

Occupy the SEC (“OSEC”) has submitted a letter to members of Congress asking them to help close the spinning revolving door that exists between the private sector and government agencies. Specifically, OSEC is raising attention to morally bankrupt deferred compensation schemes through which private sector companies are able to indirectly influence executive branch employees.

During the nomination hearing of current Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew in 2013, it was revealed that Mr. Lew received an ethically-questionable \$940,000 bonus from his former employer, Citigroup upon his acceptance of his government position. More recently, investment banker Antonio Weiss revealed that he would receive a bonus of \$20 million dollars from Lazard if he were successfully nominated as Under Secretary of the Treasury. Needless to say, such contingent bonuses create perverse conflicts of interest for government employees hailing from the private sector, and threaten the integrity of vital government programs.

Legislative changes are needed to prevent a prospective executive branch employee from receiving a bonus from a former private employer, where such bonuses are explicitly contingent upon the employee taking a position in the government. In its letter to Congress, OSEC advocates that language be added to Section 209 of Title 18 that specifically prohibits an executive branch employee from receiving any private sector bonus that rewards the acceptance of a government position, regardless of whether the bonus is paid before or during government employment.

This change is necessary to help close the “revolving door” between government and industry, which raises obvious questions about the impartiality of government employees.

Occupy the SEC is a group of concerned citizens, activists, and financial professionals that works to ensure that financial regulators protect the interests of the public, not Wall Street. For further information, visit <http://occupythesec.org> or email info@occupythesec.org.

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