

Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28) touted the passage of a sweeping new financial modernization package in the aftermath of the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression.

“Western New Yorkers are rightly worried about rebuilding our devastated economy and ending the perverse notion of ‘too big to fail,’” said Slaughter. “We’ve all felt the effects of rising unemployment and decreasing wages. This is important legislation that tilts the financial playing field back in favor of consumers, taxpayers, and Main Street after years of recklessness, greed, and excess on Wall Street.”

The Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act prevents the type of catastrophic collapse that plunged our economy into the recession we are still recovering from. It does this by addressing the core causes of the meltdown, holding Wall Street accountable, ending taxpayer-funded bailouts, and protecting Americans from the predatory lending practices.

A new Consumer Financial Protection Agency to protect families and small businesses by ensuring that bank loans, mortgages, and credit cards are fair, affordable, understandable, and transparent. This new independent federal agency will be solely devoted to streamlining oversight and protect Americans from unfair and abusive financial products and services.

It also establishes a responsible and orderly process to shut down financial firms that are “too big to fail” before their risky behavior can threaten the entire economy. These new procedures to dismantle failing companies that pose economy-wide risk – paid for by the financial industry and not the taxpayers – put an end to the idea of “too big to fail” and bailouts.

“I’m pleased that we are taking action to end taxpayer bailouts, waste, fraud and abuse in the financial industry once and for all,” said Slaughter. “It is vital that we get back to the business of rebuilding our shaken economy. This legislation puts in the proper framework we need to make sure that the rebuilding process is sustainable and puts middle class interests before the interests of big banks.”

In addition to implementing rules that responsibly unwind runaway financial institutions, the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act reins in banks by:

- Including a strong “Volcker rule” that generally restricts large financial firms with commercial banking operations from trading in speculative investments;
- Regulating, for the first time ever, the \$600 trillion over-the-counter (OTC) derivatives

marketplace;

- Ending abusive predatory lending practices that occurred during the subprime lending frenzy;
- Increasing enforcement power and funding for the Securities and Exchange Commission, including requiring registration of hedge funds and private equity funds;
- And enhancing oversight and transparency for credit rating agencies, whose seal of approval gave way to excessively risky practices that led to a financial collapse.

“Rebuilding our economy is my top priority and it needs to work for Western New Yorkers not a few on Wall Street,” said Slaughter.

The Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act was supported by a myriad of respected consumer rights and labor organizations including:

- A New Way Forward
- AARP
- Accountable America
- Adler and Colvin
- AFL-CIO
- AFSCME
- Alliance For Justice
- American Family Voices
- American Income Life Insurance
- Americans for Democratic Action, Inc.
- Americans for Fairness in Lending
- American Sustainable Business Council
- Americans United for Change
- Business for Shared Prosperity
- Calvert Asset Management Company, Inc.
- Campaign for America’s Future
- Campaign Money
- Center for Digital Democracy
- Center for Economic and Policy Research
- Center for Economic Progress
- Center for Responsible Lending
- Center for Justice and Democracy
- Center of Concern
- Change to Win
- Clean Yield Asset Management
- Coastal Enterprises Inc.
- Coffee Party

- Color of Change
- Common Cause
- Communications Workers of America
- Community Development Transportation Lending Services
- Community Law Center
- Consumer Action
- Consumer Association Council
- Consumers for Auto Safety and Reliability
- Consumer Federation of America
- Consumer Watchdog
- Consumers Union
- Corporation for Enterprise Development
- CREDO
- CTW Investment Group
- Demos
- Economic Policy Institute
- Essential Action
- Green America
- Greenlining Institute
- Good Business International
- Help Is On the Way, Inc
- HNMA Funding
- Home Actions
- Housing Counseling Services
- Information Press
- Institute for Global Communications
- Institute for Policy Studies: Global Economy Project
- International Brotherhood of Teamsters
- Institute of Women’s Policy Research
- Keystone Research Center
- Krull & Company
- Laborers’ International Union of North America
- Lake Research Partners
- Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
- Leadership Conference on Civil Rights
- MoveOn.org Political Action
- NAACP
- NASCAT
- National Association of Consumer Advocates
- National Association of Investment Professionals
- National Association of Neighborhoods
- National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development
- National Community Reinvestment Coalition
- National Consumer Law Center (on behalf of its low-income clients)
- National Consumers League
- National Council of La Raza

- National Council of Womens Organizations
- National Fair Housing Alliance
- National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions
- National Housing Institute
- National Housing Trust
- National Housing Trust Community Development Fund
- National NeighborWorks Association
- National Peoples Action
- National Urban League
- National Workrights Institute
- Next Step
- OMB Watch
- Openleft.com
- Opportunity Finance Network
- Partners for the Common Good
- National People’s Action (NPA)
- PICO
- Progress Now Action
- Progressive Future
- Progressive States Network
- Poverty and Race Research Action Council
- Public Citizen
- Responsible Endowments Coalition
- Sargent Shriver Center on Poverty Law
- Scam Victims United
- SEIU
- Sojourners
- State Voices
- Taxpayer’s for Common Sense
- The Association for Housing and Neighborhood Development
- The Carrots and Sticks Project
- The Fuel Savers Club
- The Seminal
- UNET
- Union Plus
- United for a Fair Economy
- U.S. PIRG
- Unitarian Universalist for a Just Economic Community
- United Food and Commercial Workers
- United States Student Association
- USAction
- Veris Wealth Partners
- Veterans Chamber of Commerce
- We The People Now
- Western States Center
- Woodstock Institute

- Working America
- World Business Academy
- World Privacy Forum