

## MEMORANDUM

To: File No. 4-619

From: Jennifer B. McHugh  
Senior Advisor to the Chairman

Date: April 24, 2012

Re: Telephone Discussion with Representatives of Treasury Strategies

On April 23, 2012, Senior Advisor to the Chairman Jennifer B. McHugh participated in a telephone discussion with the following representatives of Treasury Strategies:

- Tony Carfang, Partner
- Cathy Gregg, Partner
- Jacob Nygren, Manager

The discussion focused on the attached set of materials.

# Level-Setting the MMF Debate

Presented To

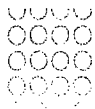


April 4, 2012

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# Understanding a Financial Run



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## Types of Financial Runs

Type	Proximate Cause
Credit-Driven	Credit loss
Liquidity-Driven	Market seizing
Speculative	Uncertainty/misinformation



# Understanding a Financial Run



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## Timing of a Run

Timing	Characteristics
Firestorm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Panic environment</li><li>• Short duration</li></ul>
Prolonged	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Extended duration</li><li>• Investors cease to rollover or reinvest upon maturity</li><li>• Crescendo</li><li>• Precipitating event can easily trigger firestorm run</li></ul>

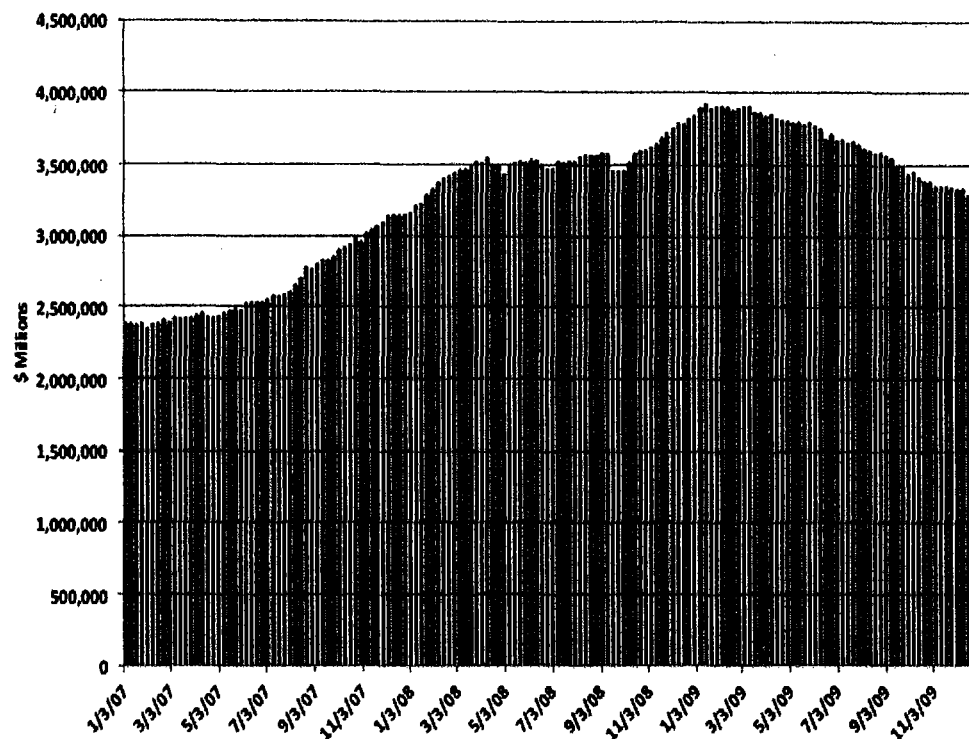


# Overview of MMF Total Assets: 2007-2009



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Market Total Assets of MMF's  
(\$ Millions)

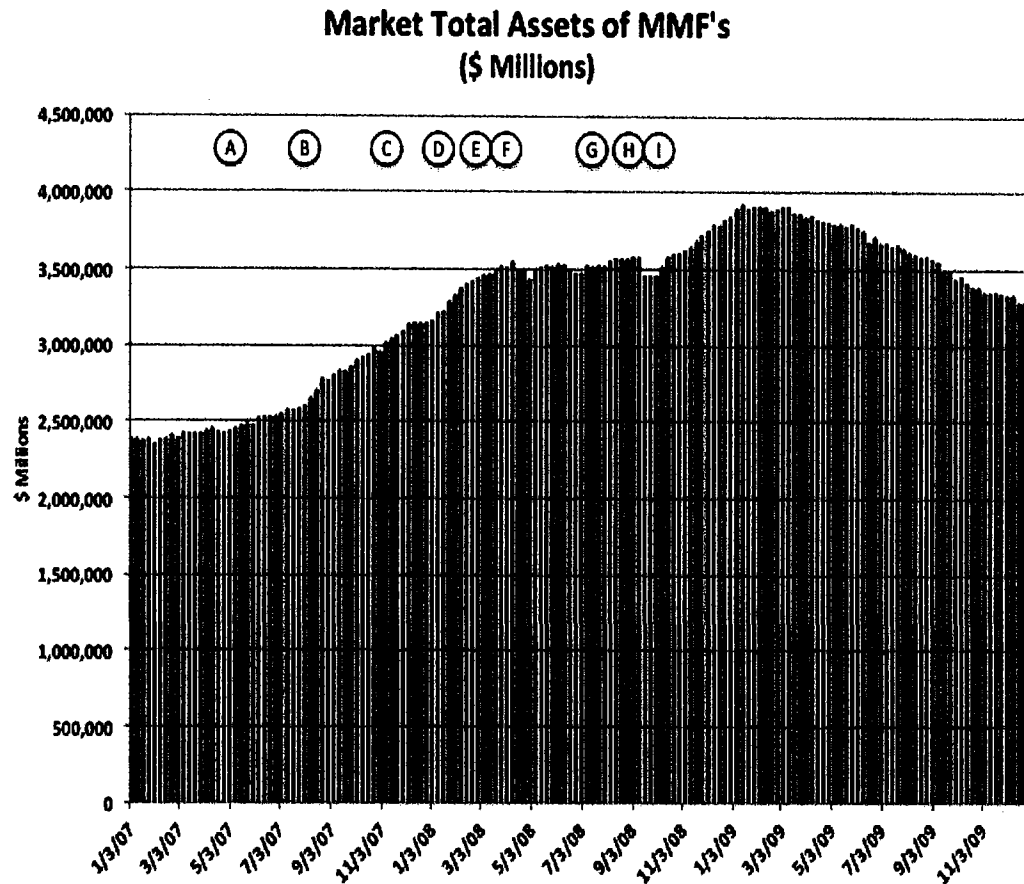


- MMF assets at \$2.4 trillion on January 1, 2007
- Peaked at \$3.9 trillion on January 14, 2009

Source: Investment Company Institute Historical Data & Treasury Strategies, Inc.

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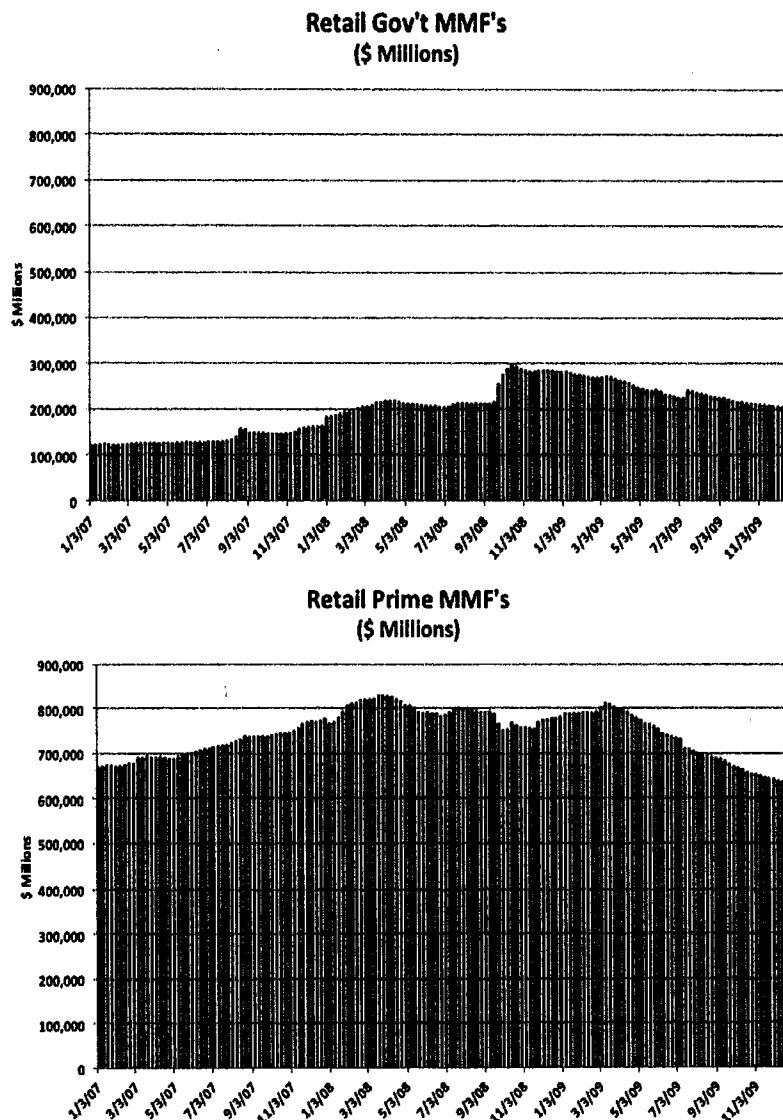
# Overview of MMF Total Assets: 2007-2009



- A) Bear Stearns RE fund fails
- B) Major ABCP downgrades
- C) GE fund moves to floating NAV and enhanced cash funds freeze
- D) Countrywide rescued
- E) Auction-rate securities freeze
- F) Bear Stearns rescued
- G) Indy Mac Bank fails
- H) Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac fail
- I) Lehman fails, Merrill rescued, Reserve fails, AIG rescued, WaMu \$16B run

Source: Investment Company Institute Historical Data & Treasury Strategies, Inc.

# Retail Money Market Funds



- Assets grew steadily as crisis unfolded from June 2007-September 2008

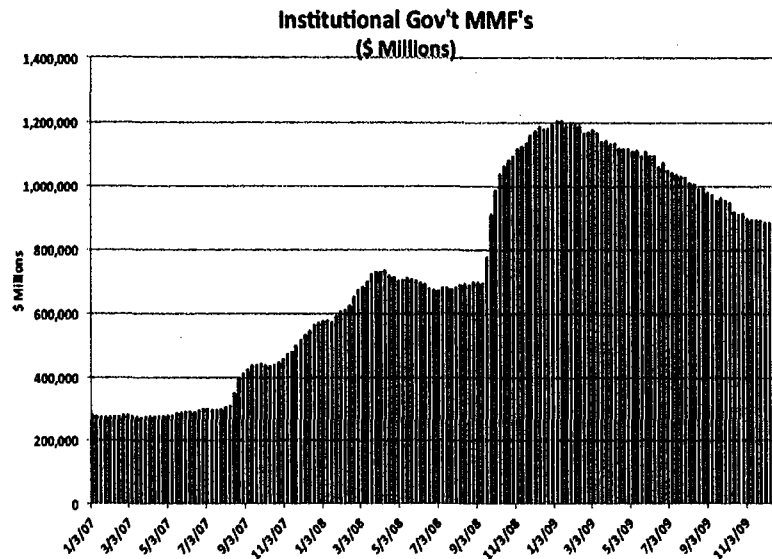
- Run *into* Government MMF's week of September 15, 2008

- Assets grew steadily as crisis unfolded from June 2007-September 2008

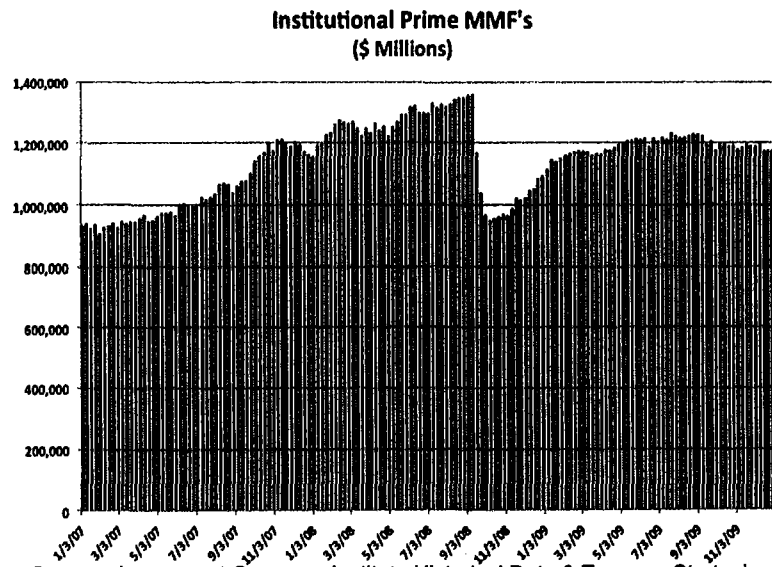
- Small decline during the week of September 15, 2008

Source: Investment Company Institute Historical Data & Treasury Strategies, Inc.

# Institutional Money Market Funds



- Major inflow of assets from June 2007-September 2008
- Run *into* Government MMFs during the week of September 15, 2008

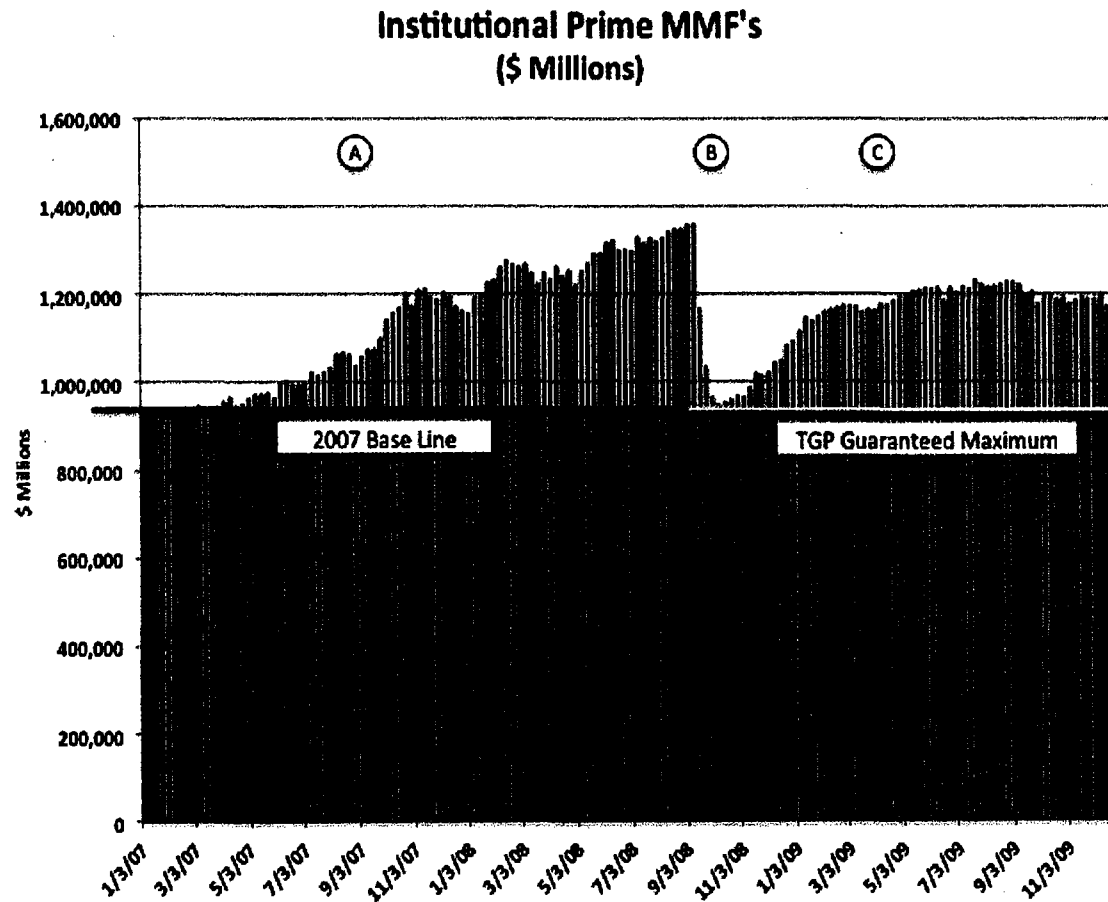


- Major inflow of assets from June 2007-September 2008
- Decline of assets to early-2007 baseline during the week of September 15, 2008
- Growth of non-guaranteed assets beginning October 2008

Source: Investment Company Institute Historical Data & Treasury Strategies, Inc.



# Institutional Prime MMFs



A) Prolonged run from other impaired liquidity asset classes into institutional prime 6/07-9/08

B) Assets revert to original baseline week of September 15, 2008

C) New non-guaranteed inflows from 10/08-7/09

Source: Investment Company Institute Historical Data & Treasury Strategies, Inc.

# The Week of September 15, 2008



Dates	Change In Inst. Prime Assets (\$B)	Market Events
8/28-9/12	-0.9	Fannie & Freddie fail est. \$200B
9/15	-60.9*	Merrill Lynch rescued Run on WaMu \$16.4B Lehman Brothers fails as Fed guarantees \$138B Reserve Primary Fund halts redemptions
9/16	-37.0*	Reserve Primary Fund "officially" breaks the buck with \$785M loss on Lehman AIG unexpectedly fails \$85B <i>after the market close</i>
9/17	-129.9	
9/18	-93.9	
9/19	-24.8	Temporary Guarantee Program implemented
9/22-12/31	+132.4	Cash inflows above the guarantee level

\*Including approx. \$54 billion from Reserve



# Regulatory Landscape



Changes to Rule 2a-7 implemented in 2010:

- More robust fund liquidity measures
- Stronger portfolio quality standards
- Shorter maturity limits
- Increased transparency of portfolio holdings and valuations
- Independent ratings and reporting requirements

Discussion of additional regulation:

- Floating NAV
- Capital
- Holdback





# Floating NAV



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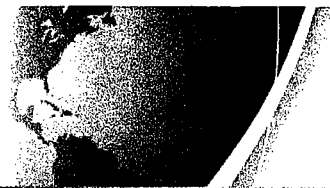
Treasury Strategies concerns with the floating NAV proposal for MMFs:

- Volatility of capital
- Accounting/tax reporting complexities
- Administrative challenges
- Legal and investment policy constraints
- Operational inconveniences
- Unpredictability for cash forecasting purposes
- Failure of similar floating NAV instruments





# Capital Requirement



Treasury Strategies' concerns with the capital requirement proposal for MMFs:

- Reduced transparency for investors
- Confusion leading to more risk averse/panic-prone investors
- Increased moral hazard for fund companies and investors
- Asset management firms and bank advisors exiting the business
- Increased volatility
- Increased costs and decreased yields, especially for retail investors and smaller fund companies
- Increased concentration of assets into the largest banks
- Creation of new AIG-like systemic risks





# Redemption Holdback



Treasury Strategies' primary concerns with the redemption holdback proposal for MMFs:

- Will create a "thirty-day look ahead" phenomenon that will trigger a firestorm run at the first sign of financial stress in an instrument in any market
- Will not eliminate a first-mover advantage
- Will result in a vast, if not total, reduction of assets in MMFs, crippling the industry and cutting off a primary source of credit for corporate and municipal borrowers
- Will not treat all shareholders equally

Additional Treasury Strategies concerns:

- Maturity extension without yield increase
- Restricted liquidity for investors
- Disenfranchised fiduciaries
- Movement of funds into unregulated instruments and exacerbation of "too big to fail"
- Operational infeasibility
- Penalties for retail investors
- Ineffective solution in eliminating first-mover advantage
- Problems with omnibus accounts
- Restricted financing for borrowers





## Other Major Regulatory Changes



Other recent regulatory changes impacting corporate and institutional investors:

- Derivatives regulations
- Basel III
- Volcker Rule
- Unlimited FDIC insurance
- Repeal of Reg Q
- Fees on daylight overdrafts
- Interest on reserve balances

Can the market digest all these changes simultaneously?





## Seriously...

A *prolonged* run occurred throughout 2007 and first eight months of 2008.


- from several impaired liquidity asset classes.
- into prime and government MMFs.

Reserve Primary Fund experienced a contained, credit-driven run as a result of the failure of Lehman Brothers.

The failure of AIG sparked an unexpected *speculative* run

- from all non-government backed liquidity asset classes.
- into government securities and government guaranteed bank accounts.

Within one month, the flow of assets into non-government guaranteed institutional prime funds resumed.







# The Way Forward



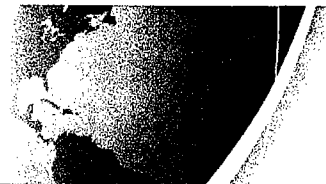
The 2010 changes to Rule 2a-7 clearly address each type of run.

Type of Financial Run	Proximate Cause	2010 MMF Regulations
Credit-Driven	Credit loss	Tightened credit standards Increased diversification
Liquidity-Driven	Market seizing	Shortened maturity structure Instituted liquidity requirement <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 10% next day</li><li>• 30% weekly</li></ul>
Speculative	Uncertainty/misinformation	Reporting of holdings Reporting of shadow NAV

Therefore, no further changes are necessary.



## Contact Us



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Data from Investment Company Institute, Crane Data, iMoneyNet, and Federal Reserve

## Who We Are

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