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Via Electronic Submission

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Chief Counsel's Office
Office of the Comptroller of the Currency
400 7th Street, SW, Suite 3E-218
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Re:

Financial Data Transparency Act Joint Data Standards Under the Financial Data Transparency Act of 2022

FRB Docket No. R-1837; RIN 7100-AG-79
CFPB Docket No. CFPB-2024-0034; RIN 3170-AB20
FHFA RIN 2590-AB38
Treasury RIN [1505-AC86]
SEC File No. S7-2024-05
CFTC RIN 3038-AF43
FDIC RIN 3064-AF96
NCUA 3133-AF57; Docket No. NCUA-2023-0019
OCC Docket ID OCC-2024-0012

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

My name is Cynthia Meyn. I have dedicated my nearly 40-year career to matters of risk mitigation, six-sigma operational processing and technology innovation in the field of financial services. I believe, as you do, that it is paramount to quickly implement the data standards rules to provide the leaders of our regulatory agencies the tools needed to avert financial system risk and to catch bad actors.

I am writing because I have followed with keen interest the Financial Data Transparency Act and I have some comments related to the recently proposed data standards rule under the 2022 Financial Data Transparency Law. I want to share a few examples of my experience before sharing my views, as I hope my deep expertise as a practitioner in the field will be evident, and lend some credibility to my opinion below.

- As it pertains to the matter at hand, I have served on the advisory, uncompensated, Board of Trustees of CUSIP Global Services since 2014, and, in December of 2024, published an article titled “The Benefits of CUSIP Non-Permanence: Reverse-Splits: in the December issue of Journal of Securities and Operations & Custody, Volume 17. This is a leading journal featuring peer-reviewed articles written by experts. One reviewer of my article even wrote “This has been the best piece I have reviewed for the journal so far. My compliments.”
- I have served as Executive Vice President of Operations at PIMCO, Managing Director of Operations at Morgan Stanley, and Managing Director of Technology at Cantor Fitzgerald, among other leadership roles.
- I have won awards in my field, most notably “Operations Business Person of the Year” by FTF News in 2014.
- I published technical papers on infrastructural topics such as Libor Cessation and the implementation playbook for insurance carriers. I have also co-authored two case studies for Harvard Business School.
- I have been a keynote speaker, panel moderator, and guest speaker at many industry conferences as well as at renowned business policy schools, such as the McDonough

School of Business at Georgetown University, on topics related to reconciliations, T+2 implementation planning, etc.

- I currently serve as Chair of the Audit, Compliance and Risk Management Committee for DUMAC (Duke University's investment management company), the Finance and Audit Committee of Axcelus Financial, Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee of ZeroHash, and Co-Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee for Smith College. I care daily about fraud and risk mitigation and uphold important fiduciary responsibilities towards that end for many stakeholders.
- I served a 6-year term on the Board of Directors of DTCC, and co-headed the Alternative Rate Reference Committee, operations implementation sub-committee.

Regarding the proposed rules, I have four concerns with one aspect. Namely, as proposed on page 27, that the FIGI, which was developed by Bloomberg, LP., and now managed by the Object Management Group, would be the de facto standard for the rule.

1. There was not a competitive process. I am disappointed to see our great government essentially give away a monopoly without researching the best solution for the task at hand. There are many security identifiers in use today, as you know, each with a purpose and use case. The Ticker, CUSIP, ISIN, and Sedol, are all examples. For reasons stated below, I believe the CUSIP is the better tool for the job.
2. CUSIP is the most accurate security identifier for formal record-keeping. If the goal of the FDTA is to enable accurate financial reporting, the FIGI does not achieve this in my view, which is based on my real-world processing and recordkeeping experience. The FIGI is 'permanently assigned' to a given stock or bond, which works well for front-office trading technology such as the Bloomberg terminal. However, I contend that for recordkeeping, CUSIP is the more accurate security identifier, as it intentionally adapts to address specific use cases. For corporate actions such as reverse splits, which occur on average more than once per day, spinoffs, and Chapter 11 bankruptcy reorganizations, and in a few other cases, the CUSIP changes on purpose. The reason is: CUSIP ensures, through enforcing non-permanence on key corporate actions, that only the holders of the 'new version' of the security reap the price action valuation increases. Because FIGI, by design, does not ever change, it would not, without numerous software workarounds, allow regulators to know from the reported data whether the reported position was bought before or after the corporate action. Thus, only with CUSIP, can regulators know that the position quantities and valuations are fully accurate as opposed to ephemeral. Please see my recently published paper, "The Benefits of CUSIP Non-Permanence: Reverse-Splits" within the Journal of Securities Operations & Custody, Volume 17, for a more detailed explanation.
3. The use of CUSIP would facilitate a faster implementation of the rule. CUSIP works now, without further software changes, across the industry. Most firms have not implemented FIGI for recordkeeping purposes, to my knowledge. If the goal is to receive these results within the next year, regulators would do well to use standards already in

place. With nearly 40 years of global leadership experience, I actually do not know any back-office leaders who use the FIGI as the key security ID for custody, settlement, record-keeping and/or regulatory reporting. Everyone I know relies upon the CUSIP and ISIN. This is not only because CUSIP has been the standard since 1968, but also because it is far more accurate because of the non-permanence feature discussed above. Perhaps lack of FIGI adoption in the back-office is because the FIGI technology is newer; but I believe it is because CUSIP is highly reliable, deeply ingrained for inter-operability among market participants, and relatively less expensive. As I mentioned above, systemic risk and fraud mitigation are top of mind for me on nearly a daily basis. I question whether it makes sense to wait for years to catch bad actors, even foreign actors, who may possess huge, stealthily managed, undisclosed controlling stakes in US Companies.

4. CUSIP is cost effective. Perhaps the FIGI standard is freely in the public domain, but the data associated with the FIGI is not free. To my knowledge, there is no scalable way to perfectly associate a FIGI with an existing security master record unless one subscribes to a data feed from Bloomberg. For firms subscribing to alternative security master feeds, the Bloomberg data feed would be a significant added cost imposed by regulators to the benefit of Bloomberg. Perhaps, when this rule was proposed and drafted, the regulators were not aware of the vast extent to which market participants use the CUSIP and ISIN and rarely use the FIGI unless within a Bloomberg terminal or unless through a paid security master data feed sold by Bloomberg.

In conclusion, I firmly support the spirit of the proposed rule and write to you to strongly encourage an implementation that would be both expedient and highly accurate. If dictating CUSIP and ISIN, rather than FIGI, is too far of a leap or pivot, I would suggest that regulators allow firms to report the most accurate position data that they have, with a tight deadline, using the most accurate security identifier that those reporting firms currently use. Moreover, if Bloomberg LP wants to be a good citizen, then I would like to suggest that Bloomberg be compelled to contribute a free subscription to the mapping table for use by the regulators' process that will tie it all together. CUSIP, for example, offers hundreds of free subscriptions for academic research purposes. Otherwise, I suggest that the regulators not give away a monopoly with a sleight of hand, but at least research what the currently regulated market participants believe is the easiest path to provide the most accurate record-keeping data to regulators. Having taken a small poll myself, prior to writing this comment, I humbly offer to you that this would be the CUSIP and ISIN.

Thank you for reading and considering my comments, and for the good work you are doing.

Sincerely,

Cynthia L. Meyn