

From: [Christopher Plummer](#)
To: [Regulatory Comments](#)
Subject: Chartering and Fields of Membership
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 5:10:07 PM

Dear Secretary of the Board Poliquin,

I have worked almost exclusively in banking for my whole working career (with the exception of one errant year in health care). While many of those years were with banks, I made the switch to working in a credit union five years ago primarily because of the position that was available. It wasn't until after I started that I quickly learned that while banks and credit unions shared the same basic functionality (deposits, savings, loans, etc), the culture and drive for each were vastly different. Whereas before when everything seemed to always be about the bottom line and keeping the board/investors happy, there was now this incredible focus that was projected outward instead of inward. Similar efforts were being made for cost savings across the organization, yet it was always from the standpoint of being able to pass those savings on to our membership. It was a breath of fresh air to see that the financial institution was truly focused on the financial well being of each and every individual walking through the doors and not just treating them like a number in the big money making machine. It made it easy to be proud of where I worked and encouraged me to participate in any way that I could to help the credit union in making a difference in our part of the world, even though it might just be a small part.

As such, it must be the goal of the National Credit Union Association to best enable credit unions to effectively serve their members and provide them with solid products and services. The financial crisis showed that institutions, such as credit unions, are the responsible actors that care about serving their members as opposed to making a profit at the expense of economic stability. I applaud the efforts of the National Credit Union Administration to help credit unions better serve consumers, and as such, I support the Board's proposed rule change that will enhance consumers' ability to choose a credit union as their financial partner.

The Board should move forward with these changes and should not be affected by comments organized by big banks, which do not have the best interests of consumers and the country's economic health at heart. Our government needs to pursue thoughtful policymaking that is driven by what is best for consumers, and not what is best for big bank shareholders. This rule change is the right approach. Please finalize your proposal.

Sincerely,

Christopher Plummer
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