

February 05, 2016

National Credit Union Administration
Gerald Poliquin, Secretary of the Board
1775 Duke Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-3428

RE: Comments on Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for Field of Membership - RIN: 3133-AE31

Dear Gerald Poliquin,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposal to amend part 701 of the National Credit Union Administration's rules regarding Field of Membership. Consumers will have more choice than ever when it comes to financial services, thanks to these proposed rule changes.

Regulators receive a lot of negative attention, but in this instance should be praised for proposing good regulatory policy that will allow more consumers access to affordable financial services, especially those in more rural and underserved areas. By modernizing the definition of "community," arbitrary boundaries once limiting people from being able to utilize a neighborhood credit union are lifted. The changes also recognize that credit unions can serve its members through means beyond physical locations. Overall, the rule truly shows NCUA's modern perspective on consumers' needs for financial services and its understanding that credit unions uphold their mission and uniqueness every day by providing access to affordable financial services.

NCUA is to be applauded for its new rules regarding credit unions' field of membership, and is encouraged to finalize the rules as proposed for the benefit of Ohioans and consumers throughout the nation. Additionally, other regulators should follow NCUA's lead in making rules that reflect communities' needs for affordable access to financial services, rather than imposing restrictions that hinder choice and healthy competition.

Anyone opposed to regulatory changes that provide consumers with expanded choice and enrich the economic environment with healthy competition should review their motives.

Thank you again for the chance to comment and for the pro-consumer changes to FOM rules.

Sincerely,

Katherine Walton
VP, Public Affairs
Ohio Credit Union League

cc: CUNA, CCUL