

From: [Kevin Lowe](#)
To: [Regulatory Comments](#)
Subject: Comments on Proposed Rule, Appendix B of Part 701
Date: Thursday, January 28, 2016 10:50:06 AM

Dear Secretary of Board Poliquin,

As a former community banker I was always opposed to credit union expansion. After leaving banking and becoming a financial advisor I now see the need for credit unions to be able to help more people. The National Credit Union Association's (NCUA) proposed rule reforming the Field of Membership (FOM) regulations is much appreciated. These rules have not been updated in some time and are no longer adequately serving the credit union industry. In fact, they are limiting member service and our ability to serve our communities and select employee groups. The number of federally chartered credit unions has been decreasing over the last several years and the restrictive FOM rules play a large part in that trend.

Chairman Matz said it best during the NCUA's Board Meeting on November 18, 2015, "Our over-arching vision is to enable federal credit unions to reach potential members from all walks of life: from rural towns to inner cities and from low-income communities to underserved areas. Whether they work on family farms, in industrial parks or office buildings, are full-time employees or hourly contractors, or if they are currently serving our country or are honorably discharged veterans-there are millions of potential members who want and need affordable financial services". I support Chairman Matz and the NCUA's efforts to modernize the FOM rule.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment on this proposed regulation. I applaud the agency's willingness to amend the Chartering and FOM Manual to provide much-needed relief for the credit union industry.

Sincerely,

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