

From: [Bryan Haun](#)
To: [Regulatory Comments](#)
Subject: Comments on Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Regarding Associational Common Bond
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 11:35:20 AM

Bryan Haun
112 Northwood Circle
Cuero, TX 77954

February 1, 2016

Dear Gerard Poliquin,

Dear Mr. Poliquin:

As a banker, I am concerned about the impact of further expanding the credit union industry's potential field of membership through the proposed rule on Chartering and Field of Membership. The provisions of this proposal, when implemented all together, would provide federal credit unions with the opportunity to increase membership drastically, resulting in a broad expansion of the credit union industry's tax subsidy.

- My bank serves customers and the surrounding community, and unfair competition from the credit union industry impacts my business. Our weekly survey always lists two large credit unions as having the highest deposit rates. We are generally pay the highest rate of all the banks in our area but we can't compete with the credit unions. Banks are not tax exempt, but are for-profit businesses attempting to balance offering products and services to best serve customers while growing the business to offer more lines of credit and other economic capital to communities. Another disadvantage to banks is that credit unions do not report their local deposits for reporting to be included in the Summary of Deposits which federally insured banks must report. This gives them the advantage of knowing what our market share is doing but we can't see their information and therefore are not even able to assess what the total deposits are in our county!
- Congress has kept in place advantages for the credit union industry, but those advantages come with limitations, including the size of the institutions and scope of activities. Congress understood that if community credit unions were to fulfill their public mission, there needed to be a legitimate shared bond among members, even amending the FCU Act in 1998, to include the term "local." Combined with the terms "well-defined," it is clear Congress intended to impose finite and narrow limits on the area that a community credit union may serve. This proposal goes beyond any reasonable definition of local and well-defined. The proposed rule intends to treat a Combined Statistical Area and a Congressional District as a well-defined local community. In addition, the proposal expands the rural district population limit by four times the current threshold to one million. Our biggest competitor for deposits is TDECU (Texas Dow Employees Credit Union) which was established for employees of a large chemical plant located 115 miles away from us. It has now expanded and is open to anyone.
- Congress deliberately instructed NCUA through the FCU Act to keep credit unions small and focused on providing services to specific groups that lack other access to financial services. The proposal would disregard this Congressional directive by modifying NCUA's process for assessing stand-alone feasibility of groups that seek to be added to the field of membership of an existing multiple common bond credit union by allowing a streamlined determination for groups with between 3,000 and 4,999 potential new members. There should be no competitive advantage for credit unions in the form of tax relief or regulatory burden if they are functioning essentially as a bank!

This letter demonstrates that such a broad expansion of authorities as proposed greatly undercuts Congressional-mandated limits on field of membership and will lead to a broad expansion of the credit union industry's tax subsidy—already valued at \$26.75 billion over the next 10 years. This abuse of regulatory authority has vast implications for both marketplace dynamics and the potential increase of tax subsidies at a time when governments are working with large budget deficits. It is clear that the NCUA Board has blatantly disregarded Congressional intent and is

overstepping its regulatory reach.

Sincerely,
Bryan Haun