



BEAVER FALLS TEACHERS'
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

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January 16, 2014

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

RE: Requirements for Contacts with Federal Credit Unions

Dear Mr. Poliquin:

The board of directors, volunteers and staff of our credit union appreciate this opportunity to comment on the NCUA proposal on contacts with federal credit unions. A significant outcome of the proposed rule would require our credit union to move from our current home-based operation to a commercial location. While we appreciate NCUA's concerns for overall safety and soundness, we oppose the proposal to force our credit union to move into commercial office space for the following reasons.

Our credit union has been in existence since 1938 and during that entire time, in our judgment, we have met the financial needs of our members as a home-based credit union. We serve approximately 520 members consisting of the employees of our school district and their family members. Weekly visits are made to the four buildings in the school district to provide personal service. Our members continually express their appreciation of the type of service they receive.

Our assets total slightly more than \$2.5 million and our net worth is \$394,454.23. Over the years our credit union has worked hard to control expenses and operated in a safe and sound manner. During examination cycles we have always maintained a clean, safe and healthy working environment for our own staff and for visiting NCUA staff.

We have a dedicated phone and fax machine line, we keep credit union records safe and secure and we have never had any supervisory problems in any of these areas in the past. We maintain that our credit union's history demonstrates that we pose no safety and soundness threat as a home-based credit union.

We have significant concerns that your proposal will needlessly force our credit union to incur an unwarranted and substantial increase in operating expenses to satisfy the rule. One advantage we have as a home-based credit union is minimal expenses for fixed assets such as a building or lease expenses. Moving out of our current offices into some type of retail or similar space will have a dramatic impact on our budget should this rule be finalized.

Finally, the proposal states that the Federal Credit Union Act authorizes NCUA to direct conditions under which its employees operate. We do not agree that the Federal Credit Union Act empowers NCUA to compel an FCU to obtain, lease or otherwise occupy any type of office facility. Again, our credit union provides a clean and safe environment for our staff and examiners. If other home-based credit unions do not or cannot provide such an environment, NCUA should apply its supervisory enforcement powers on an individual basis, just as it would if it were a credit union operating out of a commercial office space. A blanket mandate prohibiting home-based credit unions is not appropriate.

In summary, we respectfully oppose your proposal to require our credit union to move into commercial office space for two reasons. First, we currently have a healthy net worth and have control over our expenses and are operating in a healthy and safe environment. To require us to rent or lease commercial office space will significantly impact our net worth and could jeopardize the safe and sound operations of our credit union. Second, we do not believe the NCUA has the legal authority under the Federal Credit Union Act to require a credit union to operate in any particular type of office space or working environment. We trust you will consider our comments in good faith, and will ultimately determine not to require our credit union to move into commercial office space.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jonelle McMillen". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Jonelle McMillen
Manager/Treasurer