

From: [Mary Mason](#)
To: [Regulatory Comments](#)
Subject: NCUA Proposal
Date: Friday, July 24, 2015 12:09:35 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
Importance: High

Regulations Committee:

As the owner and CEO of 4 hometown banks with 8 branches I strongly oppose the proposal to by the NCUA to dramatically expand their credit union business lending. They are rogue operation that is currently not supervising their \$1+ trillion dollar tax exempt industry. This proposal will provide credit unions with the opportunity for large taxpayer-substandard expansion into commercial lending. These are a few of my serious concerns:

- **NCUA's proposal poses serious safety and soundness concerns.** NCUA has not established that it is prepared to supervise institutions with expanding business loan portfolios, and the credit union industry has proven ill-equipped to make such loans. At least five credit unions since 2010 have failed at the hands of poorly run business loan programs, accounting for a quarter of all losses to the insurance fund during that period. In 2010, member business loans were the primary or secondary contributing factor for the supervisory concern for nearly half of the credit unions with CAMEL ratings of 3, 4 or 5 that made business loans. The level of delinquent member business loans dramatically rose from 0.53 percent in 2006 to 4.29 percent in 2010; compared to a total loan delinquency of 1.74 percent, this is a clear indication that credit unions, and NCUA itself, were ill-prepared for the additional responsibilities and risks associated with commercial lending. Losses could quickly multiply under this proposed rule.

In addition, relaxing the regulatory standards is contrary to NCUA's charge of protecting the industry's insurance fund, and effectively places the taxpayer at risk. NCUA is willfully ignoring lessons from their history and encouraging credit unions to divert funds from consumer lending to commercial lending. Consider expanding on the impact of allowing an ill-prepared lender into a new market and what could occur in an economic downturn if these loans are not properly underwritten, especially given the rule's liberal allowance of loan participations could cause bad loans to be syndicated broadly.

- **NCUA is overstepping its regulatory reach by expanding business lending loopholes.** This proposal is contrary to congressional intent to limit business lending by credit unions. In 1998, Congress made it clear that credit unions should be focused on consumer lending, not commercial lending. Congress instituted restrictions on business lending deliberately: "to ensure that credit unions continue to fulfill their specified mission of meeting the credit and savings needs of consumers, especially persons of modest means, through an emphasis on consumer rather than business loans." By

proposing this rule, the NCUA Board has blatantly disregarded congressional intent. NCUA should not undermine specific limitations by Congress nor expand the taxpayer liability.

- **Demonstrate your bank's efforts to serve small businesses.** Add statements and anecdotes that explain the importance of your small business loan programs to your customers and broader community. Consider commenting on how expanding the credit union industry's authorities into commercial lending would impact your bank's ability to serve customers.

Please feel free to contact me regarding my thoughts on this issue.

Thank you very much for your time,

Joseph C. Stewart, Jr.
Chief Executive Officer
9717 Landmark Parkway, Suite 214
Sunset Hills, MO 63127
314-822-2265 X7006
Debitcard2000@aol.com
j.stewart@bank-star.com

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