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Subject: FW: "[Rick L. Kunze]--Comments on Proposed Rulemaking for Member Business Loans, Part 723"
Date: Friday, July 24, 2015 10:30:43 AM

To whom it may concern;

I am very concerned on the proposed expansion request by NCUA on behalf of credit unions.

The National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) has issued a proposed rule to dramatically expand credit unions' authorities for member business loans and commercial lending. This proposal will provide credit unions with the opportunity for a large taxpayer-subsidized expansion into commercial lending activities.

Some of the concerns I have are as follows:

- **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 the 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 its history and encouraging credit unions to divert funds from consumer lending to commercial lending. Consider expounding 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 that 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.

- **Our Community bank’s efforts to serve small businesses.** Small business loan programs by our bank both directly and by use of USDA and SBA programs help our customers and the broader community. Expanding the credit union industry’s authorities into commercial lending would impact our bank’s ability to serve customers.

Please consider these points before considering any unnecessary expansion changes.

Sincerely,

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