

August 14, 2015

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

RE: Comments on Proposed Rulemaking for Part 723; RIN 3133-AE37

Dear Gerald Poliquin,

I am writing on behalf of Sonoma County Grange Credit Union], which serves members of the agricultural communities of the North Bay area. We have 2,500 Members and \$39 million in assets. Sonoma County Grange Credit Union appreciates the opportunity to provide comments to the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) on its proposed amendments to the member business lending (MBL) regulation. We support NCUA's efforts to modernize the MBL regulation, which would give credit unions much needed flexibility in running an MBL program.

The proposed rule would switch from a prescriptive to a principles based MBL regulation. This change modernizes the regulation by giving credit unions flexibility to develop MBL programs to best fit their members' needs. A principles based regulation in some instances can complicate the running of an MBL program for credit unions, as management and boards of directors will bear a greater responsibility in developing and maintaining an MBL or commercial lending program that is safe and sound. However, we think this change is a fair trade off for the flexibility.

We also support the adjustments in the MBL calculation. Unfortunately, the statutory lending cap remains in place, but we support NCUA removing the 12.25 percent shorthand calculation as it is not required by the Federal Credit Union Act (FCU Act) and only an added complication to the rule. The proposed calculation meets the FCU Act's requirements while removing an unnecessary provision. This cap severely restricts our ability to serve the financial needs of our members.

Furthermore, the current member business rule has many requirements that necessitate obtaining a waiver, even though they are not mandated by statute. This adds unnecessary burden to credit unions making commercial loans. The proposed rule would remove all of the requirements necessitating waivers and thus eliminate the need for waivers. This represents a major regulatory improvement that we fully support.

Again, we support the NCUA's efforts to modernize the MBL rule. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed rule and for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Chris Call
CEO
Sonoma County Grange CU

cc: CUNA, CCUL