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Business Owners in Support of Credit Union Lending

August 17, 2015

To: National Credit Union Administration
From: Alex and Delia Lopez, Happy Valley, Oregon

Dear Regulators:

Thank you for considering giving credit unions more flexibility in making Member Business Loans. We are business owners as well as proud members of Point West Credit Union in Portland, Oregon.

Our story starts right before the recession. I was doing well in my industry of commercial cleaning services, so I quit my job to start my own business. But then, as the economy got worse, my wife lost her job, my business struggled and we lost pretty much everything.

Once my wife landed on her feet again, we worked nights and weekends doing everything we could to again give life to my business dreams. My wife applied for a checking account at a bank and was turned down. I needed a van for my business and the best interest rate we could get was 30%. You read that right – 30%.

Then we heard about a credit union. My wife encouraged me to give it a try.

Our lives changed the day we joined Point West. The first thing they did was refinance my van at a much more affordable interest rate. As we repaired our credit with help from Point West, we were able to get the loans we needed to grow my businesses. Today, I have many clients and have hired a few employees to help me serve them. We also have a beautiful new home and we're able to give our children a better life. We probably would not be here had our credit union not helped us out.

If credit unions could help us, we believe they can help nearly everyone who wants to start a local business. We encourage you to do everything you can to give credit unions



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the flexibility they need to provide more business loans. With hard work and a credit union, dreams do come true.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Lopez', is positioned above the printed name.

Alex Lopez