

From: [Patricia T. Allen](#)
To: [Regulatory Comments](#)
Subject: Comments on Proposed Rulemaking for Member Business Loans, Part 723.
Date: Wednesday, August 26, 2015 10:03:49 AM

Gerard Poliquin
National Credit Union Administration
Alexandria DC 22314

Comments on Proposed Rulemaking for Member Business Loans, Part 723.

Dear Gerard Poliquin:

Farmers Bank has served the citizens of Isle of Wight County for 96 years. We employ local people, pay our taxes, give generously to local schools and other non-profit organizations. We have carried and continue to carry the heavy financial burden of regulatory compliance. We desire to remain independent and continue to give back to our community through the items listed above. We are proud to have partnered with small local businesses and contribute to their success. We understand the need for regulatory oversight and continue to increase our expenses to assure safe and sound practices within the bank. It is our desire to offer these same small businesses loans for the next 96 years. Passing of NCUA's proposed changes threatens the future of not just Farmers Bank but all other independent community banks.

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. 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.

Protect our local businesses and keep the integrity of community banks intact.

Sincerely,
Patricia T Allen
50 East Windsor Boulevard
Windsor, VA 23487