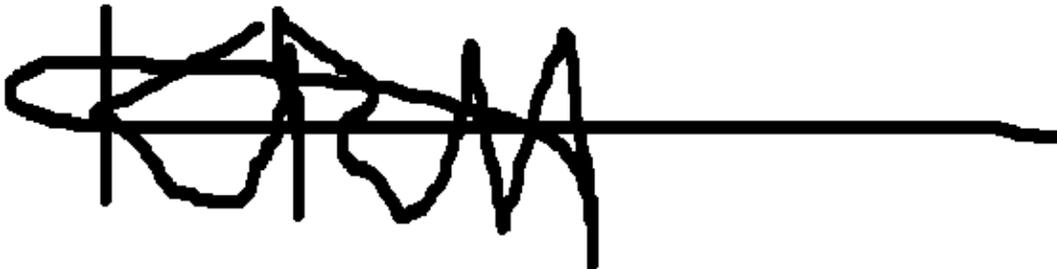To: Regulatory Comments
From: Kurt Hansen
CU*Answers

02/12/2015

Dear Mr. Poliquin:

Although Congress has stated NCUA must develop risk based capital standards and they must be formulated in a similar fashion as the banking industry, we do not believe Congress wished to create a tax on members and abandon the cooperative principals of credit unions. Since the publication in the Federal Register the actual costs associated with this capital tax have been challenged. Recently NAFCU published an estimate that credit unions will need to raise an additional $760 million dollars in capital to achieve their current capital levels. Because credit unions only have one source of earnings, that additional capital tax must come directly out of our members' pockets through a reduction in savings rates, increase in loan rates, and potentially changes to transaction fees. We believe NCUA's estimate falls far short of the actual cost to the industry and again focused on the potential risk to the insurance fund rather than those they regulate and ultimately their members . In an effort to remain the best financial resource for our members, we would encourage the NCUA to withdraw the proposed rule altogether.

For those of us who remember when the airline industry went into crisis with mergers and failures, their credit unions survived to serve their members; when the auto industry closed plants and had layoffs, their credit unions converted to communities to be there for the workers and families; when the housing crisis hit in California, Florida, and Arizona, credit unions rewrote billions of mortgage loans to keep people in their homes until they got back on their feet. The rule undermines the core of credit union effectiveness by having government rules, not the member-owner's well-being, be the focus of business strategy.

Kurt Hansen
CU*Answers