

## Regulatory Comments

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**From:** brent baker <no-reply@cuanswers.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 27, 2015 2:39 PM  
**To:** \_Regulatory Comments  
**Subject:** Risk-Based Capital Comment

To: Regulatory Comments  
From: brent baker  
cuanswers

02/27/2015

Dear Mr. Poliquin:

Our credit union's board of directors believes this rule is overreaching as many of the failures this proposed rule is trying to mitigate do not even take into consideration the reasons for the losses during the great recession. As has been depicted during the board meeting and in the proposal, over 40% of failures were the result of fraud; all of us have been following the St. Paul Croatian's fraud loss dilemma, which cost the insurance fund \$170 million dollars to date. Economic policy had nothing to do with many of these losses, regardless of the shape of credit unions' balance sheets. The idea that passing a rule—a seemingly typical government reaction—can stop fraud, eliminate mismanagement and prevent external circumstances from decimating credit union's market environment is wrong. Effective supervision is not rule making, it is intelligent supervision and patient reorganization when problems arise. This is lacking in our cu regulatory community today.

I believe the revised RBC rule penalizes credit unions for specific activities such as real estate lending, member business lending, and credit unions chartered to assist the un-bankable by placing a capital tax on the resulting assets of low income or poor credit lending. We believe the end result will be thousands of homogenous balance sheets in 2025 that you can easily understand from a supervisory perspective. However, this current risk posture of the NCUA cannot fail but to lead credit unions to shy away from diversity or cooperative reason for the charter and field of membership. The end result of this rule will ultimately force credit unions into potential areas of investment and lending that the credit union lacks experience with or create industry wide concentrations that could be impacted by similar economic variables. In and of itself, this rule creates more risk than it proposes to control.

Congress intended for the NCUA to develop rules around credit union complexity that would take into account the diversity of credit unions. An arbitrary asset cut-off point is contrary to the mission Congress provided to the NCUA, which is to take in account the special nature of my members' relationship with my credit union.

The NCUA should reconsider implementing a two-tiered RBNW that is at odds with the agency's past interpretation of its powers, and which conflicts with the plain language and intent of Congress. Not only has an NCUA Board Member strongly dissented from the NCUA's proposed Rule, but the legal foundation the NCUA is relying upon is weak. Much of the weaknesses in the NCUA's arguments can be found directly in the memo prepared by the Paul Hastings, LLP, law firm, for the NCUA Board.

Our credit union believes the RBC2 rule would undermine the cooperative and diverse nature of our charters by creating a one size fits all over-reaching capital formula. This is a massive flaw of the NCUA's structure as regulator and insurer. We believe this is a myopic view of cooperatives and only considers our equity funding mechanism. A cooperative is a like group of individuals banding together to own a business that is guaranteed

to meet their similar financial needs. The arguments and logic of the rule misapplies what is done successfully at a local or institutional level, to an entire system. Because of this I would respectfully recommend the rule be thrown out and at best become a matrix the NCUA would use in the exam process only.

Brent Baker

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