



August 4, 2017

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

***Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Voluntary Mergers of Federally Insured Credit Unions;  
RIN 3133-AE73***

Dear Mr. Poliquin:

In response to the NCUA board's request for comments on Voluntary Mergers of Federally Insured Credit Unions, I have the following observations:

- 1) The need to disclose important information for the members of each credit union to make an informed decision is critical. I believe the Board is correct in assessing the top 5 positions to define a "covered person". It would seem that the threshold to disclose a "material increase" may be too low. Both increasing the dollar amount to \$20,000 and percentage to 25% to trigger a disclosure would be prudent. This should reduce the number of staff or volunteers that would be required to be disclosed to the membership.
- 2) Since "Merger Related Financial Arrangements" can cause a conflict of interest in both State and Federally chartered institutions, this rule should be applied to all insured credit unions.
- 3) The disclosure of merger related financial arrangements should not include healthcare, retirement benefits or other benefits that are offered to all employees of either the merging or surviving credit union as long as those benefits are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis. If a benefit is offered that is not available to all employees (and meets the threshold), it should be disclosed to the membership.
- 4) The Board should not expand the member notice to include other items such as ATM access of fee comparison. The merger discussion should focus on high level benefits for the membership to consider and not in such great detail as to determine the effects on each individual member.
- 5) The additions to the member to member communication section will be overly burdensome to credit unions. Members have other ways to communicate via social media or in person at the membership meeting prior to the vote. Monitoring and posting comments from members can involve significant amounts to staff time that will generate little or no benefit in helping members make their decision. This entire section should be eliminated.

I very much appreciate the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Patrick J. Pierce', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Patrick J Pierce  
President/CEO