

From: [Jim Gowen Jr, Jr](#)
To: [Regulatory Comments](#)
Subject: Merchants and Planters Bank Comments on Chartering and Field of Membership Proposed Rule
Date: Friday, November 22, 2019 2:00:12 PM

Dear Secretary of the Board Poliquin,

I am writing in response to the National Credit Union Administration's (NCUA) proposal to amend its chartering and field of membership (FOM) rules with respect to applicants for a community charter approval, expansion, or conversion. Merchants and Planters Bank does not believe that the proposed framework will adequately guard against discriminatory redlining and recommends that NCUA adopt the anti-discrimination tools utilized by other federal banking agencies.

Merchants and Planters Bank is the only financial institution with its home office in Newport, Arkansas. While we pride ourselves on serving our community, we also fall under regulations such as the Community Reinvestment Act that make sure we are serving our community.

If the agency wants to ensure that its supervised federal credit unions do not discriminate by redlining urban cores, then it should employ some of the same tests and assessments that my regulator uses with my bank.

Sincerely,

Jim Gowen Jr
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