

From: [James Wayman](#)
To: [Regulatory Comments](#)
Subject: ESB Financial, Emporia, Kansas Comments on Chartering and Field of Membership Proposed Rule
Date: Friday, November 22, 2019 11:40:08 AM

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. ESB Financial 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.

I am part of a family-owned community bank that serves our trade area that includes communities of 25,000 and 50,000 population, plus many smaller communities within that area. Our bank just finished a fair lending audit to make sure that we are being fair with our lending standards in practice and that we are in sync with regulatory expectations. Our audit findings did not find any evidence of pricing or underwriting inequalities. However, our audit firm urged us to identify the low and moderate income (LMI) census tracts within the counties that we serve in order to ensure that we are serving all LMI areas for both consumer and real estate loans.

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,

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