

December 9, 2019

Gerard Poliquin, Secretary of the Board  
National Credit Union Administration  
1775 Duke Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3428  
[regcomments@ncua.gov](mailto:regcomments@ncua.gov)

Re: Comments on the Chartering and Field of Membership Proposed Rule

On behalf of the 2.2 million credit union members we represent, the Heartland Credit Union Association (HCUA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) Chartering and Field of Membership Proposed Rule.

We realize that the proposed rule is limited in scope and is intended to address only three aspects of the August 2019 Court of Appeals Decision regarding a well-defined local community (WDLC). Specifically, the Board is: (1) proposing to re-adopt the presumptive WDLC option consisting of a combined statistical area (CSA) or a portion of a CSA with a population of up to 2.5 million; (2) explaining further, with additional reasoning and factual support, the basis for eliminating the core area service requirement for federal credit unions that choose a portion of a core-based statistical area (CBSA) as a WDLC; and (3) proposing to amend the Chartering Manual as it applies to applications, conversions, and expansions for CSAs and CBSAs to require the applicant to explain why it has selected its FOM and to demonstrate that its selection is not based on discriminatory intent.

HCUA supports the NCUA Board's proposal to amend its chartering and field of membership (FOM) rules with respect to applicants for a community charter approval, expansion, or conversion. We support the specific proposal to re-adopt a provision to allow a CSA or an individual, contiguous portion of a CSA, to be a presumptive statistical-based WDLC, provided that the chosen area has a population of no more than 2.5 million.

We also fully support the NCUA's proposal to re-adopt the CBSA presumptive well-defined local community option that it originally adopted in the 2016 Final rule.

HCUA agrees that NCUA's further explanation and support for its elimination of the core area service requirement for CBSAs in the 2016 Final Rule that meets the requirements set forth in the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals' decision.

As always, we appreciate the opportunity to review this issue. We will be happy to respond to any questions regarding these comments.

Sincerely,



Brad Douglas  
President/CEO