



JACK A. HARTINGS
Chairman
REBECA ROMERO RAINEY
Chairman-Elect
R. SCOTT HEITKAMP
Vice Chairman
PRESTON KENNEDY
Treasurer
J. MICHAEL ELLENBURG
Secretary
JOHN H. BUHRMASTER
Immediate Past Chairman
CAMDEN R. FINE
President and CEO

April 22, 2015

The Honorable Scott Tipton
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Tipton:

On behalf of the more than 6,000 community banks represented by the Independent Community Bankers of America, I write to express our support for the Small Bank Exam Cycle Reform Act of 2015 (H.R. 1553). We appreciate your efforts to advance a key reform outlined in ICBA's Plan for Prosperity regulatory relief platform.

H.R. 1553 would allow a highly rated community bank with assets of less than \$1 billion to use an 18 month exam cycle. Under current statute and agency guidance, banks with assets of less than \$500 million and a CAMELS rating of 1 or 2 are eligible for an 18 month exam cycle. All other banks are subject to a 12 month exam cycle. Preparations for bank exams, and the exams themselves, distract bank management from serving their communities to their full potential. For this reason, ICBA supports a 24 month exam cycle for highly rated community banks. Because examiners have more than sufficient information to monitor a community bank from offsite, we believe that this change would not compromise supervision, and would actually increase safety and soundness by allowing examiners to focus their limited resources on the true sources of risk.

Thank you for introducing this important legislation.

Sincerely,

/s/

Camden R. Fine
President & CEO

CC: Members of the House Financial Services Committee

The Nation's Voice for Community Banks.®

WASHINGTON, DC ■ SAUK CENTRE, MN ■ NEWPORT BEACH, CA ■ TAMPA, FL ■ MEMPHIS, TN

1615 L Street NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20036-5623 | 800-422-8439 | FAX: 202-659-1413 | Email: info@icba.org | Website: www.icba.org