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June 16, 2010

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 5,000 members of the Independent Community Bankers of America, we strongly support the proposed Small Business Lending Fund Act of 2010 (H.R. 5297) as well as an amendment offered by Reps. Perlmutter (CO), Gutierrez (IL), Klein (FL) and Kagan (WI) that would allow community banks to amortize losses or write-downs on commercial real estate loans over a 10-year period, freeing up more capital for community banks to lend to small businesses.

This proposal will provide additional incentives for community banks to make needed loans, ensuring that they are able to be the economic engines of their communities. Under this proposal, banks will be able to use their capital to lend money to small businesses and consumers, encourage job creation and aid the economic recovery.

We encourage the House of Representatives to support Rep. Perlmutter's amendment that would provide great relief to our nation's community banks and the small businesses and communities that they serve and promptly pass H.R. 5297.

Sincerely,

/s/

Stephen J. Verdier
Executive Vice President/Director of Congressional Relations