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*Immediate Past Chairman*

CAMDEN R. FINE  
*President and CEO*

March 8, 2018

United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the nearly 5,700 community banks represented by ICBA, I write to express our support for the amendment in the nature of a substitute to the bipartisan Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief and Consumer Protection Act (S. 2155) offered by Chairman Crapo and Senators Donnelly, Heitkamp, Tester, and Warner.

We encourage all Senators, particularly those that did not support the motion to proceed, to review the substitute amendment, which keeps the bill focused on community bank relief, protection for veterans' credit, safeguards against identity fraud, and other provisions. The substitute amendment further ensures that the limited relief provided in S. 2155 from *new* HMDA reporting is not available to banks with low ratings under the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA). To qualify for this limited relief, a bank must originate 500 or fewer mortgages per year and maintain a satisfactory or higher CRA rating. Banks that qualify for limited relief under S. 2155 will still be subject to existing HMDA rules (which require the collection and reporting of demographic, racial, and gender data on all mortgage applicants). There will be no reduction in the number of HMDA filers as a result of S. 2155.

We appreciate the strong bipartisan support of 67 Senators who voted to advance S. 2155. Passing this legislation is a key vote for the community banking sector. If you have not previously supported S. 2155, we urge you to take a fresh look at the bill and the substitute amendment. Ask the local community bankers in your state why they adamantly support this critically important bill and urge its enacted into law. The relief provided in S. 2155 has the potential to reinvigorate community bank lending in all markets and is especially important to the rural and underserved markets left behind in the economic recovery.

ICBA and America's community banks thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

/s/

Camden R. Fine  
President & CEO