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April 9, 2021

The Honorable Ben Cardin  
Chairman  
Committee on Small Business  
& Entrepreneurship  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rand Paul  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Small Business  
& Entrepreneurship  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Cardin and Ranking Member Paul:

On behalf of community banks across the country, with more than 50,000 locations, I write to express our support for the nomination of Dilawar Syed to serve as Deputy Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). The leadership of a Senate-confirmed Deputy Administrator is important to the success of the agency at a critical point in the economic recovery.

Community banks have made 60 percent of Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans in 2020 which have supported the retention of over 3.7 million employees. In addition, 72.6 percent of PPP loans to minority-owned small businesses, 71.5 percent of PPP loans to women-owned small business, and 63.4 percent of PPP loans to veteran-owned small businesses were made by community banks. Community banks are active participants in 7(a) and 504 programs and have a vested interest in their success.

Dilawar Syed's prior experience as President of several businesses, his civic engagement on behalf of small businesses and economic growth in California, and his prior administrative experience, make him highly qualified to serve as SBA Deputy Administrator.

We urge the Senate Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship to expeditiously schedule a confirmation hearing and vote on the nomination and look forward to working with Mr. Syed on the remaining implementation challenges of the PPP as well as other critical SBA programs.

Thank you again for considering Mr. Syed's nomination.

Sincerely,

/s/

Rebeca Romero Rainey  
President & CEO

*The Nation's Voice for Community Banks.®*

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