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President and CEO

June 10, 2015

The Honorable Robert W. Goodlatte
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Goodlatte:

On behalf of the more than 6,000 community banks represented by the Independent Community Bankers of America, I write in support of the Issa-Chu amendment slated for consideration at the legislative markup of H.R. 9, the Innovation Act. If adopted, this amendment would extend the duration of the Covered Business Method Program (CBM) by six years.

Before the introduction of H.R. 9, we identified two priorities for the Committee: the need for greater detail and transparency in demand letters and a reasonable extension of the CBM program.

Representatives Darrell Issa and Judy Chu have announced their intention to offer a bipartisan amendment during this Thursday's mark-up that would extend the duration of the CBM program but not expand its scope. We appreciate your support of this amendment and strongly encourage its adoption.

We also believe more needs to be done by the Committee to address abusive demand letters against community banks. We look forward to continuing to work with you and the Committee to ensure inclusion of a CBM extension and meaningful demand letter reform as the bill works its way to the full House.

We commend your strong leadership in forwarding patent reform legislation.

Sincerely,

/S/

Camden R. Fine
President & CEO

CC: Members of the House Judiciary Committee

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