

June 10, 2019

The Honorable Maxine Waters  
Chairwoman  
House Committee on Financial Services  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patrick McHenry  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Financial Services  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Waters and Ranking Member McHenry:

The undersigned state bankers associations write to express our strong support for H.R. 2513, the Corporate Transparency Act of 2019. This measure will bring needed clarity and transparency to the beneficial ownership requirements.

We commend Representative Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Investor Protection, Entrepreneurship and Capital Markets, for her attention to this important issue. H.R. 2513 is a bipartisan piece of legislation that would require corporations and limited liability companies to self-report beneficial owners to the Financial Crime Enforcement Network (FinCEN) at the time of formation of the entity. Further, the bill would require all companies within two years to file such information with FinCEN.

A single federal registry would help ease the burden on companies because the beneficial ownership information would be located in one place. A company would not be required to provide that information to a financial institution each and every time it opens a new account. The information also would be readily accessible to law enforcement and would provide an easy way for financial institutions to verify beneficial ownership information.

While financial institutions go to great lengths to know their customer and follow all requirements to know the beneficial owner, there is no formal system in place to ensure that shell companies are not hiding money to facilitate illegal activities. And while this legislation may be transformative for the United States, it would simply bring the U.S. in line with other developed countries.

We support H.R. 2513 and urge the members of the Committee to pass this important measure.

Sincerely,

Alabama Bankers Association  
Alaska Bankers Association  
Arizona Bankers Association  
Arkansas Bankers Association  
Colorado Bankers Association  
Connecticut Bankers Association  
Delaware Bankers Association  
Florida Bankers Association  
Georgia Bankers Association  
Hawaii Bankers Association  
Idaho Bankers Association  
Illinois Bankers Association  
Indiana Bankers Association  
Iowa Bankers Association

Kansas Bankers Association  
Kentucky Bankers Association  
Louisiana Bankers Association  
Maine Bankers Association  
Maryland Bankers Association  
Massachusetts Bankers Association  
Michigan Bankers Association  
Minnesota Bankers Association  
Mississippi Bankers Association  
Missouri Bankers Association  
Montana Bankers Association  
Nebraska Bankers Association  
Nevada Bankers Association  
New Hampshire Bankers Association  
New Jersey Bankers Association  
New Mexico Bankers Association  
New York Bankers Association  
North Carolina Bankers Association  
North Dakota Bankers Association  
Ohio Bankers League  
Oklahoma Bankers Association  
Oregon Bankers Association  
Pennsylvania Bankers Association  
Puerto Rico Bankers Association  
Rhode Island Bankers Association  
South Carolina Bankers Association  
South Dakota Bankers Association  
Tennessee Bankers Association  
Texas Bankers Association  
Utah Bankers Association  
Vermont Bankers Association  
Virginia Bankers Association  
Washington Bankers Association  
Western Bankers Association  
West Virginia Bankers Association  
Wisconsin Bankers Association  
Wyoming Bankers Association

cc: Members of the House Committee on Financial Services