

April 23, 2015

The Honorable Lynn Westmoreland  
2202 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney  
2308 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Westmoreland and Maloney:

On behalf of the members of the American Bankers Association (ABA), I am writing to express our strong support for your bill, H.R. 1941, the Financial Institutions Examination Fairness and Reform Act. This bipartisan legislation, introduced with the support of 28 original cosponsors, is designed to address continuing problems and concerns about the lack of consistency and quality in the bank examination process.

Our members are concerned that examiners are making decisions during the examination process that have effectively and unnecessarily reduced the amount of capital available for lending – particularly to small businesses. These decisions hinder banks, particularly community banks, in their ability to help local businesses grow and create jobs.

H.R. 1941 addresses this critical issue by establishing clear standards and creates an independent Examination Review Director to ensure the consistency of all examinations. It also would ensure that financial institutions receive timely examination reports that include full documentation of the information the regulators used to make their determinations, and would create an expedited process for banks to appeal examination decisions without fear of reprisals. This bill also incorporates safeguards to ensure that financial institutions will not delay or evade appropriate supervisory action.

This legislation takes a major step toward a more balanced and transparent approach regarding regulators' decision-making during the examination process. Similar legislation was introduced last Congress and received bipartisan support from over 150 members.

We appreciate your leadership on this issue and our member banks will be actively engaged in assisting in your efforts to have H.R. 1941 considered by the House Financial Services Committee and the House.

Sincerely,



James C. Ballentine

cc: Members of the U.S. House of Representatives