



Credit Union National Association

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The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Minority Leader McConnell:

The jobs numbers released today reinforce the fact that the American economy is in a very fragile recovery and more needs to be done to help businesses create jobs. America's credit unions stand very willing to help in this regard, holding significant capital that could be loaned to small businesses but for a statutory cap restricting credit union business lending. On behalf of America's credit unions and their 93 million members, I ask you to permit the Senate to consider legislation introduced by Senators Mark Udall and Olympia Snowe (S. 509) to increase the credit union member business lending cap to 27.5% of a credit union's total assets.

If S. 509 were law, we believe credit unions could lend an additional \$13 billion to small businesses in the first year, helping them to create 140,000 new jobs without increasing the size of government or outlaying a single taxpayer dollar. This legislation has been endorsed by the Obama administration, has been subject to hearings in the Senate Banking Committee, and is the type of commonsense legislation that Senators on both sides of the aisle should be able to embrace: new jobs, new lending to small business, zero cost.

It is well known that the only groups that oppose this legislation represent the banks which contributed to the financial crisis, were given access to \$30 billion of taxpayer money to lend to small businesses, and exhibit continued reluctance to lend. The banks' small business lending activity in the wake of considerable government assistance is unacceptable; their opposition to the Udall-Snowe bill is unconscionable and should be rejected.

The failure of Congress to enact S. 509 literally leaves money on the table that could help small businesses hire those among the 9.2% of Americans actively seeking jobs. The time is now to set aside the banker objections, move the Udall-Snowe bill and let credit unions serve their members who own small businesses.

On behalf of America's credit unions, we appreciate your consideration and look forward to helping small businesses create jobs and help improve the economy.

Best Regards,

Bill Cheney
President & CEO



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