



Credit Union National Association
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World
Council
of Credit
Unions

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December 6, 2007

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
2314 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey,

On behalf of the Credit Union National Association (CUNA), World Council of Credit Unions (WOCCU) and the 89 million credit union members in the U.S. and 172 million members worldwide, thank you for your leadership in including language supportive of the Cooperative Development Program (CDP) in the FY2008 Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, and request your continued support for this important program in the upcoming Conference Report.

CUNA and WOCCU are supportive of the Senate's inclusion of \$12 million for the Cooperative Development Program in the FY2008 bill, and urge that funding level be maintained in the Conference Report.

The CDP aids the work of credit unions and other cooperatives in developing countries by funding sustainable development assistance carried out by eight U.S.-based cooperative development organizations, including WOCCU. The CDP accelerates economic growth, enhances the understanding and use of democratic principles, and improves stability in some of the world's most impoverished countries.

Through the CDP, WOCCU enables individuals located in lesser developed countries to access high quality, reasonably-priced financial services by building networks, creating enabling regulatory environments, and providing training to credit union leaders and staff. WOCCU has been successful in extending credit union operations to HIV/AIDS-affected communities and other difficult operating environments, and has recently been particularly effective helping poor and low-income households in troubled countries such as Rwanda and Afghanistan.



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Again, your support of the CDP is greatly appreciated and recognized by credit unions worldwide. We urge your continued support by insisting that the language and provisions in the Senate bill be carried forward into the Conference Report for the FY2008 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, and we look forward to working with you to achieve this goal.

Sincerely,



Daniel A. Mica
President/CEO
Credit Union National Association



Pete Crear
President/CEO
World Council of Credit
Unions