Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 16, 2014

The Honorable Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write today to express our concerns with the lack of representation of community banks on the Federal Reserve Board of Governors.

Community banks play a critical role in our nation's economy, serving businesses and consumers across the country. Small business owners, farmers, and hard-working Americans rely on these institutions every day to meet payroll, to purchase equipment, or to buy a car or a home, and these banks answer the call. They deploy capital throughout their communities, helping customers meet their day-to-day needs, spurring economic growth, and creating jobs.

Unfortunately, community banks are facing headwinds. Over the past several years, the regulatory burdens on these institutions have compounded significantly, and they are struggling to keep pace with new requirements from bureaucrats in Washington.

As you know, the central bank supervises and regulates banks that are members of the Federal Reserve System, including community banks, yet it lacks a member of its governing body who has experience with the day-to-day operations of a small bank. Your recent nominations to the Board fail to address this problem.

The community banking business model is unique and comes with a distinct set of challenges. While recognizing the need to identify smart, accomplished individuals to fill vacancies on the Board, we believe it is equally as important to appoint a governor who understands firsthand the practical implications of the Board's actions on smaller institutions and who can share that perspective with the other governors. A governor who has helped a young couple get a mortgage or made a loan to an entrepreneur is precisely the type of experience that will, in our view, make the Board more effective.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Steve Womack
Member of Congress

Tom Cotton
Member of Congress

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Tim Griffin
Member of Congress

Stephen Fincher
Member of Congress

Steve Stivers
Member of Congress

Mac Thornberry
Member of Congress

Walter Jones
Member of Congress

Tom Rice
Member of Congress

Bob Latta
Member of Congress

Tom Reed
Member of Congress

Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress

Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress

Scott Tipton
Member of Congress

Peter King
Member of Congress

Joe Barton
Member of Congress

Richard Nugent
Member of Congress

Bill Posey
Member of Congress

Robert Aderholt
Member of Congress

Joe Wilson
Member of Congress

Michael Burgess
Member of Congress

Tim Huelskamp
Member of Congress

Rick Crawford
Member of Congress

Chris Stewart
Member of Congress

Howard Coble
Member of Congress

Mike Simpson
Member of Congress

Mike Conaway
Member of Congress

Alan Nunnelee
Member of Congress

Richard Hudson
Member of Congress

Ralph Hall
Member of Congress