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President and CEO

April 18, 2013

The Honorable Mary Landrieu
Chair
Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Landrieu:

On behalf of the 7,000 community banks represented by ICBA, I write to thank you for introducing three Small Business Administration (SBA)-related bills: the Commercial Real Estate and Economic Development (CREED) Act (S. 289), the Expanding Access to Capital for Entrepreneurial Leaders (Excel) (S. 511) Act, and the Clear SBA Act (S. 537).

The CREED Act would extend the SBA's 504 refinance program which allows small businesses to refinance eligible fixed assets. That program expired in September 2012. The Excel Act would make available an additional \$500 million a year in funding for the SBA's Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) program which provides early funding for entrepreneurs. The Clear SBA Act would require the SBA to establish a user-friendly database of lender activity on its website.

Community banks form the building blocks of our nation's cities, towns, and rural areas by providing needed small business capital and credit. Community bank small business lending through SBA loan programs fosters the well-being of local communities. Together the three bills you introduced would improve the SBA for borrowers and lenders, help strengthen small businesses, and support entrepreneurship. Importantly, the bills would come at no cost to taxpayers.

ICBA looks forward to working with you to make access to credit more affordable and available to small businesses. Thank you again for your strong support for small business and the SBA.

Sincerely,

/s/

Camden R. Fine
President & CEO