INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY
BANKERS of AMERICA®

July 24, 2013

The Honorable Jerry Moran
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jon Tester
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mark Kirk
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Moran, Tester, and Kirk:

On behalf of the 7,000 community banks represented by ICBA, I write to thank you for sponsoring the Community Lending Enhancement and Regulatory Relief Act of 2013 (S. 1349), which advances priority provisions of ICBA's Plan for Prosperity: A Regulatory Relief Agenda to Empower Local Communities. We are pleased to offer our strong support for your legislation.

Regulatory relief provisions of S. 1349 include:

- Providing any mortgage held in portfolio by a community bank is a "qualified mortgage" under the CFPB's new ability-to-repay rules;
- Exempting any community bank mortgage held in portfolio from new escrow requirements;
- Supporting additional capital opportunities for small bank holding companies; and
- Providing relief for community banks from redundant internal controls assessment mandates.

These provisions promote tiered regulation of the banking sector, providing calibrated regulatory relief appropriate for the size, lower-risk profile, and traditional business model of community banks. Community banks provide 60 percent of all small business loans under $1 million, as well as customized mortgage and consumer loans suited to the unique characteristics of their local communities. They are playing a vital role in ensuring the economic recovery is robust and broad based, reaching communities of all sizes and in every region of the country. The meaningful regulatory relief provided by S. 1349 will allow them to promote and support entrepreneurship, job creation, and economic growth in their communities.

Thank you again for sponsoring S. 1349. We look forward to working with you to advance your legislation.

Sincerely,

/s/

Camden R. Fine
President & CEO

INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY BANKERS of AMERICA *The Nation's Voice for Community Banks.®*
1615 L Street NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20036-5623 ■ 800-422-8439 ■ FAX: 202-659-1413 ■ Email: info@icba.org ■ Website: www.icba.org