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President and CEO

September 30, 2015

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Johnny Isakson
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Shaheen and Isakson:

On behalf of the more than 6,000 community bankers represented by ICBA, I write to express our support for the Commercial Real Estate and Economic Development (CREED) Act (S. 966), which would extend the Small Business Administration's (SBA's) 504 refinance program. The 504 program, which expired in September 2012, allowed small businesses to refinance eligible fixed assets.

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, including the 504 program, fosters the well-being of local communities. S. 966 would help strengthen small businesses and support entrepreneurship. Importantly, it would come at no cost to taxpayers.

Thank you for introducing S. 966. We look forward to working with you to advance this important legislation.

Sincerely,

/s/

Camden R. Fine
President & CEO

The Nation's Voice for Community Banks.®

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