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October 6, 2015

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Democratic Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of the more than 6,000 community banks represented by ICBA, I write to thank you for scheduling floor consideration of the Small Bank Exam Cycle Reform Act of 2015 (H.R. 1553). We encourage all Members to vote YES on this important legislation, which reflects a key reform outlined in ICBA's Plan for Prosperity regulatory relief platform.

H.R. 1553 would allow a highly rated community bank with assets of less than \$1 billion to use an 18 month exam cycle. Under current statute and agency guidance, banks with assets of less than \$500 million and a CAMELS rating of 1 or 2 are eligible for an 18 month exam cycle. All other banks are subject to a 12 month exam cycle. Preparations for bank exams, and the exams themselves, distract bank management from serving their communities to their full potential. Because examiners have more than sufficient information to monitor a community bank from offsite, we believe that this change would not compromise supervision, and would actually increase safety and soundness by allowing examiners to focus their limited resources on the true sources of risk. While ICBA would prefer a 24 month exam cycle for highly rated community banks, we support H.R. 1553 as a positive step that will provide important relief for hundreds of community banks.

Thank you for advancing this important legislation.

Sincerely,

/s/

Camden R. Fine
President & CEO

CC: Members of the U.S. House of Representatives

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