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President and CEO

June 20, 2017

The Honorable Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Rounds
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Hirono and Rounds:

On behalf of the more than 5,800 community banks represented by ICBA, I write to express our support for the Veteran Small Business Export Promotion Act (S. 1056), which would promote Veteran-owned small businesses, exports, and job creation.

America's Veterans are a critical entrepreneurial and economic resource. S. 1056 would help to leverage this resource by facilitating Veteran access to the Small Business Administration's (SBA's) Export Express, Export Working Capital, and International Trade programs. Specifically, S. 1056 would permanently waive up-front fees for Veterans applying for loans of \$150,000 or less guaranteed through these programs. A waiver has been in place since 2013 and has been renewed annually since then. The current waiver is set to expire September 30, 2017.

America's community banks enjoy a strong partnership with small businesses and are heavy users of the SBA's guaranteed loan programs, including the export programs named above. S. 1056 would further strengthen this partnership by increasing access to credit for Veterans.

Thank you for introducing S. 1056.

Sincerely,

/s/

Camden R. Fine
President & CEO

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