

An Open Letter to Congress:



The Nation's Community Banks Are a Source of Bipartisanship and Strength

Dear Members of the 116th Congress,

Happy New Year and thank you for serving a critical role in leading our nation as members of the 116th Congress. The nation's community bankers stand ready to work with each of you to promote policy reforms during the new Congress that will move our communities forward toward prosperity for all.

The Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA) is proud to have represented the nation's community banks since our founding during the Great Depression in 1930. As an industry with a proven track record of advocating common-sense reforms that deliver practical results for Main Street consumers and small businesses, community banks are committed to building on recent successes to address the policy challenges that remain.

Because each congressional district is home to at least one of the nation's more than 52,000 community bank locations, the industry maintains meaningful relationships on both sides of the aisle. With divided control of Congress requiring even greater bipartisan pragmatism to address the many pending legislative issues facing lawmakers, community banks stand ready to assist.

As local financial institutions that serve a nation of consumers, families, small businesses and farmers, community banks support policies that will ensure every local community can join in the nation's economic prosperity. Representing urban, suburban and rural communities from coast to coast, this industry reflects our vast and diverse nation and offers a source of common ground to help Washington ford the deep partisan gulf that often divides us.

ICBA will continue to advance an agenda that promotes the flow of credit and economic opportunity for all individuals and families.

As a member of Congress, you can support this meaningful change by:

- Modernizing the Bank Secrecy Act and addressing the overly complex and burdensome Customer Due Diligence Rule.
- Promoting a competitive landscape that recognizes the evolving nature of the American financial marketplace but also seeks to address the undue competitive advantages enjoyed by credit unions and Farm Credit System lenders because of their unjustified tax exemptions.
- Advancing data breach legislation that calls for all participants in the payments system to have bank-like data security standards and promotes a national data breach notification standard.
- Advocating for legislation that supports a steady, reliable source of funding for home mortgage lending through all economic cycles and in all markets.
- Calling on legislators and regulators to address and curb financial market distortions caused by too-big-to-fail banks.
- Promoting a vibrant rural economy that is critical to America's prosperity.

ICBA and community bankers look forward to working with the 116th Congress to provide every American an equitable opportunity to take part in our nation's economic and job growth. Together, we can ensure full and nationwide prosperity, one community at a time.

Sincerely,

Rebeca Romero Rainey
President and CEO
Independent Community Bankers of America