



February 2, 2018

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Minority Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the 148 community banks chartered in the state, holding over \$778 billion in assets, \$301 billion in deposits and employing over 17,850 full-time employees across the state, the undersigned directors comprising the board for the Independent Bankers Association of New York State (IBANYS), respectfully urge you to do everything in your power as Minority Leader of the Senate to assist in advancing S. 2155, the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief and Consumer Protection Act as expeditiously as possible and free of any amendment that would upset the solid bipartisan balance of the bill.

As you know, this multipronged regulatory relief bill was driven by a bipartisan coalition of lawmakers, including Senate Banking Committee Chairman Mike Crapo, R-Idaho, and committee Democrats Joe Donnelly of Indiana, Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota, Jon Tester of Montana and Mark Warner of Virginia. The bill currently enjoys support from 23 cosponsors including 11 Democrats and one Independent. This legislation is vital to the small businesses, consumers and community-based financial institutions in our state and across the country.

Community banks bear disproportionate regulatory cost and burden relative to their size. For this reason, relief targeted at community banks will deliver the biggest economic payoff for Main Street small businesses and local communities. The bill's provisions promote community bank mortgage lending; capital access and rule simplification; smarter, risk-targeted examination and supervision policies, and more. The time is now to enact this critical regulatory relief and bring years of effort to fruition.

The time for protracted debate and deliberation has passed. Community bankers across the state urge you to seize the rare bipartisan opportunity that presents itself today and help expedite passage of S. 2155 as soon as practically possible. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this critical issue.

Sincerely,

John Witkowski, President & CEO, Independent Bankers Association of New York State

R. Michael Briggs – USNY Bank, Geneva, NY – Chairman, Independent Bankers Association of New York State

Thomas Amell – Pioneer Bank, Albany, NY – Vice Chairman, Independent Bankers Association of New York State

Michael Wimer – Cattaraugus County Bank, Little Valley, NY – Secretary/Treasurer, Independent Bankers Association of New York State

Douglas Manditch – Empire National Bank, Islandia, NY – Immediate Past Chairman, Independent Bankers Association of New York State

John Buhrmaster – First National Bank of Scotia, Scotia, NY

Thomas Carr – Elmira Savings Bank, Elmira, NY

Randy Crapser – Bank of Richmondville, Cobleskill, NY

Ronald Denniston – First National Bank of Dryden, Dryden, NY- Director Emeritus

Christopher Dowd – Ballston Spa National Bank, Ballston Spa, NY

John Eagleton-Steuben Trust, Hornell, NY

Robert Fisher – Tioga State Bank, Spencer, NY

Anthony Delmonte– Bank of Akron, Akron, NY

Gerald Klein – Tompkins Mahopac Bank, Brewster, NY

Richard Koelbl – Alden State Bank, Alden, NY

Mario Martinez– Catskill Hudson Bank, Kingston, NY

Paul Mello – Solvay Bank, Solvay, NY

G. William Ryan – Cayuga Lake National Bank, Union Springs, NY

Anders Tomson – Capital Bank/ a division of Chemung Canal Trust Company, Albany, NY

Kathleen Whelehan – Upstate National Bank, Rochester, NY