

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 14, 2010

The Honorable Sheila C. Bair  
Chairman  
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation  
550 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20429

Dear Chairman Bair:

As you are aware, non-bank lenders were responsible for originating the majority of the toxic subprime loans that were at the center of our nation's financial crisis. However, it is our nation's highly regulated traditional depository banks, particularly our small community banks, that are feeling the greatest regulatory pressure to respond to calls to increase small business lending despite having to operate within an increasingly rigid regulatory environment.

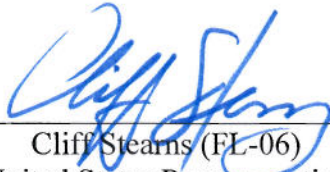
It has been brought to our attention that approximately 70 percent of Florida's community banks are under some kind of regulatory order. We are concerned that banking examiners may be pursuing an unreasonably tough analysis of Florida banks' asset quality and are regularly requiring downgrades of performing loans. This, in turn, is causing our banks to restrict their lending activities, which only further exacerbates our economic crisis.

We therefore respectfully request that all regulatory field office personnel be directed to consistently apply a measured approach in their banking examinations and refrain from making arbitrary decisions in their conduct of safety and soundness examinations of community banks. In addition, we also request that banking examiners refrain from increasing bank capital requirements above official regulatory standards.

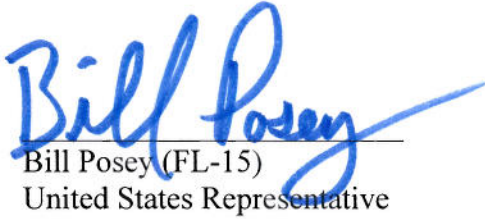
Our request for forbearance is particularly timely in light of the decision by Comptroller General Dodaro to have the U.S. Government Accountability Office conduct a full three-month review of the issue of aggressive field examinations and the effect on community banks.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. There is a clear need for regulatory forbearance for Florida banks during this time of financial hardship.

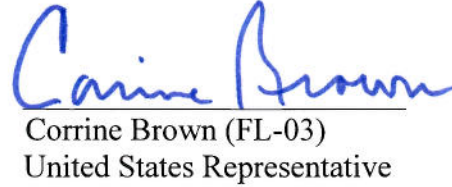
Sincerely,



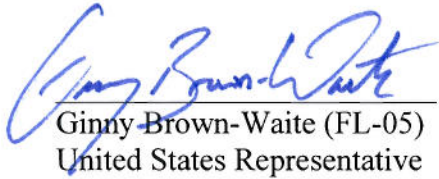
Cliff Stearns (FL-06)  
United States Representative



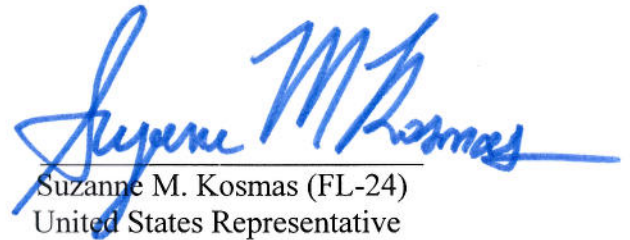
Bill Posey (FL-15)  
United States Representative



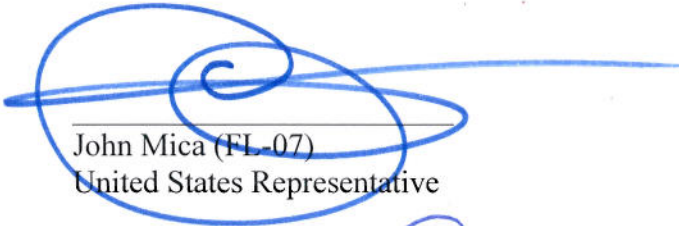
Corrine Brown (FL-03)  
United States Representative



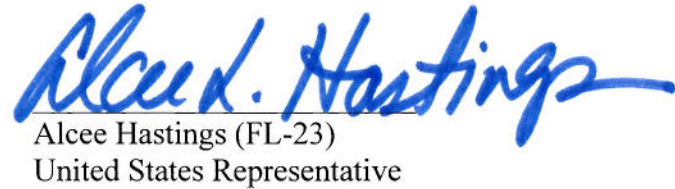
Ginny Brown-Waite (FL-05)  
United States Representative



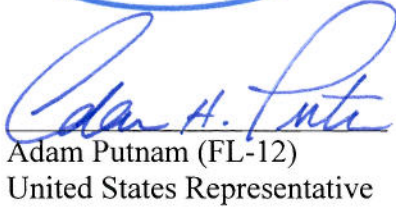
Suzanne M. Kosmas (FL-24)  
United States Representative



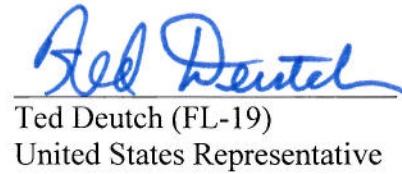
John Mica (FL-07)  
United States Representative



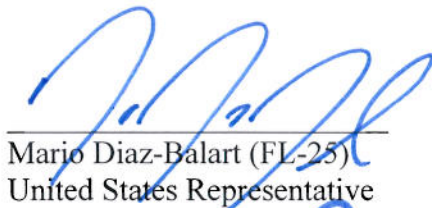
Alcee Hastings (FL-23)  
United States Representative



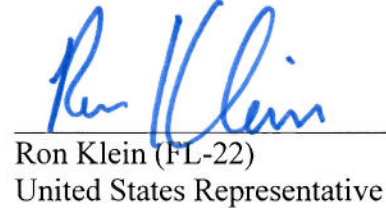
Adam Putnam (FL-12)  
United States Representative



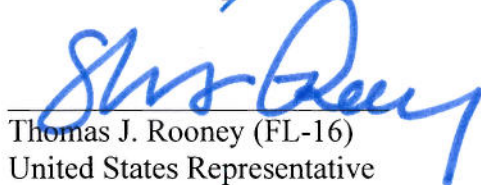
Ted Deutch (FL-19)  
United States Representative



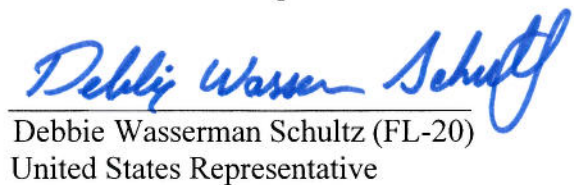
Mario Diaz-Balart (FL-25)  
United States Representative



Ron Klein (FL-22)  
United States Representative



Thomas J. Rooney (FL-16)  
United States Representative



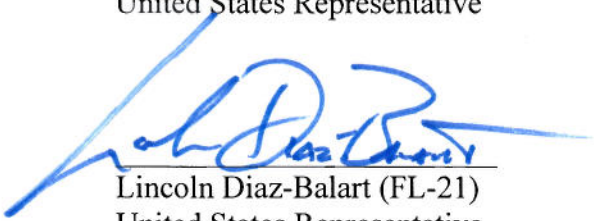
Debbie Wasserman Schultz (FL-20)  
United States Representative



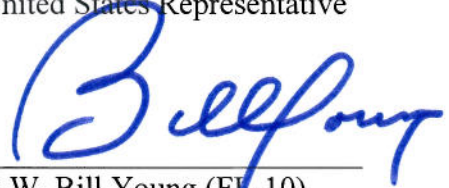
Connie Mack (FL-14)  
United States Representative



Kendrick B. Meek (FL-17)  
United States Representative



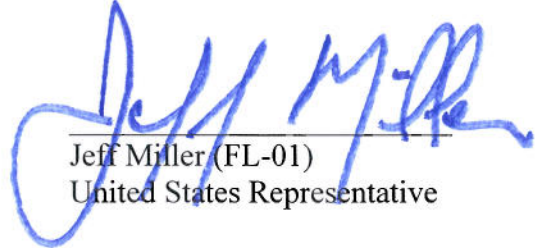
Lincoln Diaz-Balart (FL-21)  
United States Representative



C.W. Bill Young (FL-10)  
United States Representative



Vern Buchanan (FL-13)  
United States Representative



Jeff Miller (FL-01)  
United States Representative



Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (FL-18)  
United States Representative



Ander Crenshaw (FL-04)  
United States Representative



Gus Bilirakis (FL-09)  
United States Representative

CS:nda

Cc: The Honorable Ben S. Bernanke, Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

Cc: The Honorable John C. Dugan, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency

Cc: The Honorable John E. Bowman, Acting Director, Office of Thrift Supervision

Cc: Commissioner J. Thomas Cardwell, Florida Office of Financial Regulation