



May 19, 2015

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Banking, Housing & Urban Affairs
534 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Brown;

On behalf of the Ohio Bankers League, we are writing to express our support for the recently proposed *Financial Regulatory Improvement Act of 2015*.

The OBL has over 200 members, representing the overwhelming majority of all depository institutions doing business in this state. Our membership represents the full spectrum of FDIC insured depository institutions from small mutual savings associations owned by their depositors, community banks that are the quintessential locally owned and operated businesses, up to large regional and multistate holding companies. Ohio depository institutions directly employ more than 130,000 people in Ohio.

As bankers that live and work in Ohio, we make the loans that help keep our economy going. Whether it is to help a young family purchase a home, or lending the funds to help a young farmer or businessman get started, Ohio bankers are there to provide the capital. What our members do every day is about as far from trading, investment banking or predatory lending as you can get, yet OBL member institutions and the communities we serve are being harmed by the over reach of regulations that were intended to reign in the financial excesses of the past decade. The cost and burdens of this over regulation are creating barriers between our lenders and our customers, which in turn slows down hiring, building and economic expansion. Regulations are growing both in terms of complexity and volume, meaning that we are spending an increasing part of every day figuring out the paperwork as opposed to working with our customers. This focus is stifling our ability to make loans to create jobs, encourage economic growth and help consumers achieve their financial goals. Our frustration is compounded by the fact that many of these regulations do nothing to further safety and soundness or protect consumers.

We need your help. We urge you to continue work with your colleagues on the *Financial Regulatory Improvement Act of 2015* to develop a package of substantial regulatory reforms that can be approved by Congress and sent to the President. Many of the proposals in the proposal have already received bipartisan support in the House or Senate and all of ideas are worthy of further consideration. We understand this proposal has been circulated as a starting point, rather than a final bill. We hope this process will lead to a healthy debate, but the Ohio economy and your constituents need common sense

regulatory relief so as bankers we can do what we do best: provide affordable financial services that create jobs and help grow the economy.

The Ohio banking community is in favor of meaningful regulatory reform and urges you to support the Financial Regulatory Improvement Act. The leadership and staff at the Ohio Bankers League looks forward working with you to achieve meaningful regulatory relief and stands ready to assist in working toward that goal.

Respectfully submitted;

Handwritten signature of Robert Lameier in black ink.

Robert Lameier
Chairman, Ohio Bankers League
President & CEO
Miami Savings Bank

Handwritten signature of Brian Young in blue ink.

Brian Young
Chairman, OBL Government Relations Committee
President & CEO
The Union Bank Company