



February 22, 2006

Honorable Richard C. Shelby
Chairman
Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs
United State Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Paul S. Sarbanes
Ranking Member
Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs
United State Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Shelby and Sarbanes:

We are writing to urge adoption of meaningful financial services regulatory relief legislation before the end of the year. We are pleased that the Senate Banking Committee is poised to act on regulatory relief legislation in the near future.

We support a balanced regulatory structure that carefully guards the safety and soundness of the banking system and the interests of consumers through reasonable regulations. However, today banks are subject to a host of laws and regulations, some over a half-century old, that do not enhance safety and soundness or provide any meaningful protections for the public. The burdens of compliance with such laws add unnecessary costs to the operation of the banking system, stifle innovation and put up barriers to competition. Eliminating unnecessary regulations will free up resources that can be used to serve better the businesses and families that rely on the banking system for loans, investments and other financial services.

We believe that there is an opportunity to adopt meaningful regulatory relief legislation this year. We urge the Senate Banking Committee to act quickly to send comprehensive legislation to the full Senate for consideration.

Thank you for the consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

F. Weller Meyer, Chairman
America's Community
Bankers

Harris H. Simmons, Chairman
America Bankers Association

David E. Hayes, Chairman
Independent Community
Bankers of America