

don't have to. This is important because county sizes can vary significantly throughout the country, particularly in Western States, and I want to thank my colleague and friend on the other side of the aisle, Congressman HINOJOSA, for his contribution to this feature of the legislation.

The legislation specifies a number of commonsense factors that CFPB must consider when evaluating an application. In addition to the local input of the applicant, these factors include population density; a written opinion provide by the State's bank supervisor; and criteria used by the Census, OMB, and the Department of Agriculture for properly classifying geographic areas as either rural or urban.

Upon receiving an application, the CFPB is to provide for a 90-day public comment period and then grant or deny such applications within an additional 90 days. The Bureau shall then publish in the Federal Register an explanation of the factors it relied on in making its ultimate determination.

Once again, I am pleased that this is a bipartisan bill. I want to thank especially Congressman HINOJOSA for his input in helping to improve this legislation. I also want to thank all of the other cosponsors of the bill, which is endorsed by a broad coalition, including the Kentucky Bankers Association, the Conference of State Bank Supervisors, the Kentucky Credit Union League, the Credit Union National Association, the National Association of Federal Credit Unions, the American Bankers Association, the Independent Community Bankers of America, the National Association of Realtors, and the chairman of the Kentucky Department of Financial Institutions—again, the top banking regulator in Kentucky, Commissioner Charles Vice.

This is a commonsense and simple bill, and I appreciate the opportunity to present it here today. I urge my colleagues to support this simple reform piece of legislation, and I urge the support and immediate passage of this legislation.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA), a cosponsor of H.R. 2672.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support H.R. 2672, the Helping Expand Lending Practices in Rural Communities Act, as amended. I would like to thank my distinguished colleague, Congressman BARR of Kentucky, for your leadership on this bill.

As the chairman of the Congressional Rural Housing Caucus, I have dealt with the varying definitions of rural for many years. Given that the definitions promulgated by the USDA are problematic on many counts, I was very concerned when I learned that the CFPB originally used them as a guide for their rule.

The original rule by the CFPB would exclude Hidalgo County in my 15th

Congressional District in deep south Texas. Hidalgo County includes some urban areas, but much of it is also rural.

It is home to the most colonias in the Nation. Colonias often lack basic infrastructure, such as indoor plumbing and electricity. They are rural by definition. We need to ensure that community banks and credit unions are not prevented from investing in such rural communities.

The CFPB's new mortgage rules discourage risky mortgage lending practices that sparked the financial crisis. However, community banks and credit unions did not cause the crisis and have legitimate reasons for flexibility when it comes to serving rural America.

Rural community bankers know their customers by name; often, they are the only option for credit within hundreds of miles. They understand the unique financial needs of their community and how best to serve the farmers, to serve the ranchers and small businesses that rely on them.

I appreciate that the CFPB has heard our concerns and has responded by offering a short exemption. I believe the petition process enacted by this legislation will only strengthen the CFPB's final rule.

This is an important opportunity given that rural is not easily defined and looks different by region. It makes good sense for the CFPB to follow the USDA's lead and for communities to be able to petition their rural status.

I thank Congressman BARR for his outstanding work on this bill and for including the changes that I proposed. Defining rural on a county-level basis is too arbitrary, given the large size of counties in Texas and other Western States. I do not believe the bill undermines the CFPB's commitment to consumer protection, and I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 2672.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time to close.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I would simply like to ask all of my colleagues to support this important legislation, and I would like to commend Mr. HINOJOSA and Mr. BARR, and I would also like to commend Mrs. CAPITO and all who have worked so well together to ensure that we pay attention to the problems of rural communities, and this bill certainly does that.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I echo the comments of the ranking member, and I thank her for her help on this bill. I thank Mr. HINOJOSA and Mr. BARR for their good, hard work.

As I said earlier in my opening statement, rural America does have a different way of trying to access credit and to make sure that homeownership becomes the reality that many of us hope for our families. I would like to congratulate the sponsors, and I urge passage of the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2672, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to provide for an application process for interested parties to apply for an area to be designated as a rural area, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MONEY REMITTANCES IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2014

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4386) to allow the Secretary of the Treasury to rely on State examinations for certain financial institutions, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4386

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Money Remittances Improvement Act of 2014".

SEC. 2. COMPLIANCE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) COMPLIANCE WITH REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ON MONETARY INSTRUMENT TRANSACTIONS.—Section 5318(a) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (7); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following:

"(6) rely on examinations conducted by a State supervisory agency of a category of financial institution, if the Secretary determines that—

"(A) the category of financial institution is required to comply with this subchapter and regulations prescribed under this subchapter; or

"(B) the State supervisory agency examines the category of financial institution for compliance with this subchapter and regulations prescribed under this subchapter; and".

(b) COMPLIANCE WITH REPORTING REQUIREMENTS OF OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.—Section 128 of Public Law 91–508 (12 U.S.C. 1958) is amended—

(1) by striking "this title" and inserting "this chapter and section 21 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1829b)"; and

(2) by inserting at the end the following: "The Secretary may rely on examinations conducted by a State supervisory agency of a category of financial institution, if the Secretary determines that the category of financial institution is required to comply with this chapter and section 21 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (and regulations prescribed under this chapter and section 21 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act), or the State supervisory agency examines the category of financial institution for compliance

with this chapter and section 21 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (and regulations prescribed under this chapter and section 21 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act).”

(c) CONSULTATION WITH STATE AGENCIES.—In issuing rules to carry out section 5318(a)(6) of title 31, United States Code, and section 128 of Public Law 91–508 (12 U.S.C. 1958), the Secretary of the Treasury shall consult with State supervisory agencies.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from West Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to submit extraneous material on H.R. 4386, the bill currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from West Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to thank Mr. ELLISON and Mr. PAULSEN from the Financial Services Committee for drafting the legislation before us today. I know that many of their constituents rely on money transfer services—as many do across this country—to remit money to family members living abroad.

One of the current challenges facing the money service business and the regulatory agencies that enforce the law is a lack of information-sharing between the State and Federal entities. The end result is these entities are examined for compliance both at the State and Federal level.

H.R. 4386 seeks to reduce the compliance burden for these businesses by allowing for greater information sharing between State and Federal agencies. This legislation will make it easier for consumers seeking money transfers to access these services.

I commend the authors of this legislation for identifying the duplication between State and Federal compliance and putting forth a proposal to streamline the regulatory framework for these businesses.

Consumers will have greater access to the financial services they need and want, while at the same time making it easier for these businesses—and the financial institutions they partner with—to make sure they are in compliance with the law. I urge adoption of this bipartisan legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4386, the Money Remittances Improvement Act, offered by the distinguished gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON), a member of the House Financial Services Committee and a

cochair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus.

Representative ELLISON has worked diligently to get this important bill to the floor for some time, and I thank him for that. I am also grateful to Financial Services Committee Chairman JEB HENSARLING for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor today.

H.R. 4386 is a commonsense measure that will strengthen Bank Secrecy Act examinations of the nonbank financial institutions that lack a Federal regulator by permitting the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, known as FinCEN, to rely on examinations already conducted by State supervisory agencies where they meet Federal standards.

This straightforward change will make better use of limited State and Federal resources and will ensure that the wide range of nonbank financial institutions, currently subject to examination by the Internal Revenue Service as delegated by FinCEN, will be subject to more consistent and effective oversight.

In addition to furthering our national security interests, the enhanced regulatory coordination and robust oversight of nonbank antimoney-laundering compliance provided for in this bill will make it easier for lawful and well-regulated nonbank institutions, such as money service businesses, to provide remittances and other essential financial services.

Access to remittances is particularly important in States like Minnesota, Ohio, Washington, and California, which are home to diaspora communities from the east African nations of Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Sudan, Somalia, and elsewhere.

For family members living in fragile states, remittances sent from the United States often provide an essential lifeline during difficult periods of drought, famine, conflict, and economic disruption.

In an environment where banks and credit unions are understandably eager to reduce risks of all kinds, this is exactly the type of legislation we need. By strengthening oversight of nonbank money transmitters and other nonbank actors, this bill will help increase the confidence banks and credit unions rely on in determining whether to provide the account services that nonbank institutions need to stay in business.

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It will also do so without diluting the important risk-based due diligence requirement banks and credit unions are subject to under the Bank Secrecy Act.

Appropriately, current law requires that banks and credit unions take steps to ensure that their nonbank customers meet core Bank Secrecy Act compliance obligations, including recordkeeping and reporting requirements, ongoing monitoring for suspicious activity, and training for employees to ensure they are familiar with their obligations under the law.

While banks, credit unions, and their executives must be expected to meet obligations under the law, we must also do more to provide them with the tools necessary to access compliance risk, distinguish between good and bad actors. To strengthen our national security, promote a more sound financial system, save taxpayers money, and provide fairness and relief to immigrant communities across this Nation and their families around the globe, I urge all Members of the House to vote in favor of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I would like to reserve the balance of my time. I have no further speakers.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON), the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I would like to start out by thanking Chairman HENSARLING and Ranking Member WATERS. I would also like to thank the people who I have worked closely with on the bill, including my own staff, who did a fine job, but also Congressman PAULSEN, who has been my friend of many years; Congressman DUFFY, who is away tending to family affairs with a newborn baby; and also Congressman HINOJOSA and many others.

The fact is that this is a commonsense good piece of legislation. It is the kind of thing that it would be great if we worked on more of. Both Federal and State regulators have a responsibility to provide oversight over nonbank financial institutions like money services businesses, jewelry merchants, and mortgage brokers. However, Federal regulators have not been able to rely on the information that comes from the State exams for their oversight purposes. This bill changes that. In so doing, it reduces duplicative exams and increases efficiency.

Madam Speaker, I urge support of this bill because it reduces duplication in exams between State agencies and the IRS and makes the system more efficient. One reason I introduced the bill is because I want to see more money service businesses have access to bank accounts. Financial institutions will feel more assured in providing bank accounts because more nonbank financial institutions will now be formally examined.

Groups ranging from Oxfam America to Dahabshiil agree. New Americans know that their ability to send money back to their families in Somalia and elsewhere is literally a matter of life and death. For many Americans, remittances are a lifeline, providing food, shelter, education, and economic development.

This bill is an example of how robust oversight can reduce risk, resulting in greater beneficial activity. This bill received a great deal of support from a wide range of supporters.

Again, I would like to thank my cosponsors for the bill. I would also like to thank the Senate leads on the bill, Senators KIRK and KLOBUCHAR, and finally, again, Chairman HENSARLING and Ranking Member WATERS for prioritizing the need to improve regulatory oversight, which also meet humanitarian needs.

I urge my colleagues to support the Money Remittances Improvement Act, H.R. 4386.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers. I am prepared to close if the gentlewoman from California is also prepared.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I would like to thank all of those who have worked on this legislation.

This is a fine example of how you take a rather difficult and complicated problem and work through ways by which you can ensure security and that lawful actions are continued in order to make sure that the banking laws are being recognized and being honored and still do something for those people who are dependent on these remittances.

I yield back the balance of my time and ask all of my colleagues for their support on this bill.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the sponsors of the bill. We have done a great job of working together as two State colleagues. I urge support of this bill as well.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. DUFFY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in favor of H.R. 4386, the Money Remittance Improvement Act.

I want to thank my colleague Rep. ELLISON for his hard work and leadership on this important issue.

Madam Speaker, I proudly come from a family of 13—10 brothers and sisters—and my wife Rachel comes from a family of six. Both of our families are spread across the United States and at times are spread across the world. It has always been a comfort to know that we can rely on each other in good and hard financial times, and that's a value Rachel and I hope to pass on to our six—soon to be seven—children.

Sadly, duplicative requirements under current law for money service businesses make it difficult to wire money outside the United States to certain countries. Congress enacted laws to restrict money being sent internationally for illegal or fraudulent activity, but they never required the Federal government to coordinate many of those protections with State financial regulators. In fact, current law actually restricts these parties from sharing much of that information.

Not only does this create inefficiencies, but it creates confusion as well. And this confusion often prevents the hardworking Hmong in my district from sending money to their loved ones, cutting off financial support. That is why they are supporting H.R. 4386, and I submit their letter of support.

Madam Speaker, by requiring the Federal government to better communicate with State financial regulators of Wisconsin and the United States, as H.R. 4386 does, families spread across the world will enjoy the same peace of mind that Rachel and I do.

This is a common sense piece of legislation that will not only protect everyone from unscrupulous financial activity but also improve the lives of all hardworking families throughout the world.

I urge all Members to support H.R. 4386.

WAUSAU AREA HMONG
MUTUAL ASSOCIATION,
Wausau, Wisconsin, May 6, 2014.

Hon. Rep. SEAN DUFFY,
7th Congressional District of Wisconsin, Washington, DC.

DEAR REP. DUFFY: Thank you for your hard work and for being a cosponsor of the proposed legislation "The Money Remittances Improvement Act of 2013, H.R. 1694/S. 1840." This proposed bill is what many Hmong families in Central Wisconsin need to help their families and relatives in Laos.

As you are aware, Central Wisconsin is home to nearly 7,000 Hmong American residents, making the area the second largest Hmong community in the state. Wisconsin has the third largest Hmong population in the nation following California and Minnesota. Most Hmong American families in the U.S. still have close family members or relatives whom they left behind in Laos. These Hmong families are living in very poor conditions with no support from their government and are dependent on their families in the U.S. for financial assistance.

Each year, hundreds of Hmong individuals and families in Central Wisconsin would send monies to help their poor relatives in Laos. The Money Remittances Improvement Act, no doubt, would make it easier for Hmong Americans to send financial support to help their poverty stricken family members and relatives.

We support The Money Remittances Improvement Act and urge the House of Representatives to pass this bill as soon as possible. We thank you for your diligent work on behalf of the citizens of Central and Northern Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

PETER YANG,
Executive Director, Wausau Area
Hmong Mutual Association, Inc.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4386.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT ON RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THAT THE HOUSE FIND LOIS LERNER IN CONTEMPT OF CONGRESS

Mr. ISSA, from the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, submitted a privileged supplemental report (Rept. No. 113-415, Part II) on the resolution recommending that the House of Representatives find Lois G. Lerner, Former Director, Exempt Organizations, Internal Revenue Service, in contempt of Congress for refusal to comply with a subpoena duly issued by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

COMMUNITY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND FOSTERING ECONOMIC GROWTH

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3329) to enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3329

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CHANGES REQUIRED TO SMALL BANK HOLDING COMPANY POLICY STATEMENT ON ASSESSMENT OF FINANCIAL AND MANAGERIAL FACTORS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Before the end of the 6-month period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System shall publish in the Federal Register proposed revisions to the Small Bank Holding Company Policy Statement on Assessment of Financial and Managerial Factors (12 C.F.R. part 225-appendix C) that provide that the policy shall apply to bank holding companies and savings and loan holding companies which have pro forma consolidated assets of less than \$1,000,000,000 and that—

(1) are not engaged in any nonbanking activities involving significant leverage; and

(2) do not have a significant amount of outstanding debt that is held by the general public.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 171(b)(5)(C) of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (12 U.S.C. 5371(b)(5)(C)) is amended by inserting "or small savings and loan holding company" after "any small bank holding company".

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act may be construed as limiting the authority of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System to exclude a bank holding company or a savings and loan holding company from the policy statement described under subsection (a), if such action is warranted for supervisory purposes.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

(1) BANK HOLDING COMPANY.—The term "bank holding company" has the meaning given that term under section 2 of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1841).

(2) SAVINGS AND LOAN HOLDING COMPANY.—The term "savings and loan holding company" has the meaning given that term under section 10(a) of the Home Owners' Loan Act (12 U.S.C. 1467a(a)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MURPHY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from West Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and then submit extraneous materials for the record on H.R. 3329, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from West Virginia?