

to provide end users with market certainty, to make basic reforms to ensure transparency and accountability at the Commission, to help farmers, ranchers, and end users manage risks to help keep consumer costs low, and for other purposes:

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chair, I submit the following exchange of letters:

SIFMA,  
June 19, 2014.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,  
*Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
*Democratic Leader, House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER AND LEADER PELOSI: SIFMA and its member firms strongly support H.R. 4413, the Consumer Protection and End User Relief Act, bipartisan legislation that seeks to reauthorize the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) to better protect futures customers, provide market certainty for end-users, and make basic reforms to improve the functioning of the CFTC.

One provision in this bill seeks to create harmonization of cross-border swaps regulation by requiring the CFTC and SEC to jointly promulgate rules in full compliance with the Administrative Procedures Act and within 270 days. This is necessary as the two agencies share jurisdiction over the swaps markets and currently have inconsistent approaches to the extraterritorial application of rules under Title VII of the Dodd-Frank Act. This provision is largely similar to H.R. 1256, Swap Jurisdiction Certainty Act, which passed the House by vote of 301–124.

Another provision in the bill would prevent costly margin requirements from being imposed on non-financial end-users for their derivatives activity used to hedge commercial risks. This provision is largely similar to H.R. 634, Business Risk Mitigation and Price Stabilization Act of 2013, which passed the House by vote of 411–12.

SIFMA strongly urges you to vote for H.R. 4413. Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

ANDY BLOCKER,  
*EVP, Public Policy and Advocacy, SIFMA.*

EDISON ELECTRIC INSTITUTE,  
*Washington, DC, June 18, 2014.*

Hon. FRANK LUCAS,  
*Chairman, House Agriculture Committee,*  
*Washington, DC.*

Hon. COLLIN PETERSON,  
*Ranking Member, House Agriculture Committee,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN LUCAS AND RANKING MEMBER PETERSON: On behalf of EEI's member companies, I am writing to express our strong support for H.R. 4413, the Customer Protection and End-User Relief Act. The legislation provides additional certainty and clarifies congressional intent on a number of issues of significant importance to EEI members.

EEI is the association of all the U.S. investor-owned utilities, international affiliates and industry associates worldwide. Our members provide electricity for 220 million Americans, directly employ more than a half-million workers, and operate in all 50 states. With more than \$85 billion in annual capital expenditures, the electric utility industry is responsible for providing reliable, affordable, and sustainable electricity that powers the economy and enhances the lives of all Americans.

EEI members are non-financial entities that primarily participate in the physical commodity market and rely on swaps and futures contracts mainly to hedge and miti-

gate their commercial risk. The goal of our member companies is to provide their customers with reliable electric service at affordable and stable rates, which has a direct and significant impact on literally every area of the U.S. economy. Since wholesale electricity and natural gas historically have been two of the most volatile commodity groups, our member companies place a strong emphasis on managing the price volatility inherent in these wholesale commodity markets to the benefit of their customers. The derivatives market has proven to be an extremely effective tool in insulating our customers from this risk and price volatility. In sum, our members are the quintessential commercial end-users of swaps.

As such, regulations that make effective risk management options more costly for end-users of swaps will likely result in higher and more volatile energy prices for retail, commercial, and industrial customers. H.R. 4413 goes a long way in providing much needed regulatory relief and an even greater clarity to the compliance landscape facing EEI and the entire end-user community going forward.

Thank you for your leadership on these important issues.

Sincerely,

THOMAS R. KUHN.

JUNE 17, 2014.

DEAR MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: The undersigned organizations represent a very broad cross-section of U.S. production agriculture and agribusiness. We urge you to cast an affirmative vote on H.R. 4413, the "Customer Protection and End-User Relief Act," when it moves to the floor for consideration.

This legislation, unanimously approved on a bipartisan basis by the Committee on Agriculture, provides important protections for futures customers:

Enhanced reporting, transparency and accountability in futures markets. These much-needed improvements will help prevent another MF Global.

The ability for customers to "claw back" assets from a parent firm in the event of a shortfall of customer funds in FCM insolvencies—something that wasn't possible with MF Global.

A clear roadmap for meaningful cost-benefit analysis to be performed by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission before proposing major rules.

A solution to the very troubling "residual interest" rule approved last fall by CFTC that would force customers to pre-margin hedge accounts, thereby putting perhaps twice as much customer money at risk, dramatically increasing hedging costs, and likely driving farmers, ranchers and small hedgers out of the futures market.

Relief from technologically infeasible recordkeeping requirements in the cash commodity markets.

Thank you in advance for your support of this bill that is so important to U.S. farmers, ranchers, hedgers and futures customers.

Sincerely,

Agribusiness Association of Iowa, Agribusiness Council of Indiana, Amcot, American Cotton Shippers Association, American Feed Industry Association, American Soybean Association, Commodity Markets Council, Grain and Feed Association of Illinois, Indiana Grain and Feed Association, Iowa Institute for Cooperatives, Kansas Cooperative Council, Kansas Grain and Feed Association, Michigan Agri-Business Association, Michigan Bean Shippers, Minnesota Grain and Feed Association, Montana Grain Elevators Association, National Association of Wheat Growers, National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

National Corn Growers Association, National Cotton Council, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, National Grain and Feed Association, National Milk Producers Federation, National Pork Producers Council, North American Export Grain Association, North Dakota Grain Dealers Association, Ohio Agribusiness Association, Oklahoma Agricultural Cooperative Council, Oklahoma Grain and Feed Association, South Dakota Association of Cooperatives, South Dakota Grain & Feed Association, Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council, United Egg Producers, USA Rice Federation.

IN HONOR OF SCOTT OBERG

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 3, 2014

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Scott Oberg for his outstanding commitment and dedication of 29 years of service to law enforcement, specifically the California Highway Patrol, the community, and his service to the United States of America.

Scott Oberg began his law enforcement career as an officer when he joined the California Highway Patrol El Centro Area Office on May 23, 1985 after graduating from the academy. Soon after, Scott Oberg served as a Field Training Officer from 1988 until 2002; during this time he trained seventeen officers, served on the Critical Incident Investigations Team from 2009 until 2012, as Court Officer from 2011 to 2013, and currently serves as a Front Desk Officer.

Additionally, from 1992 to 1996, Scott Oberg served on the elite Imperial County Narcotics Task Force, where he participated in 24 undercover investigations and assisted in many seizures and arrests. Furthermore, Scott Oberg has an exemplary record of approximately 21,000 citations issued, 1,000,000 patrol miles, 12,000 motorist services, 900 collisions investigations, 425 DUI arrests and 95 felony arrests.

I applaud Scott Oberg for his distinguished service to California, the Imperial Valley community, and California's 51st Congressional District.

STATEMENT COMMEMORATING  
MELROSE'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 3, 2014

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of the centennial celebration of Melrose, Wisconsin. Originally known as "Bristol," the village was first settled by Robert Douglas in 1839. Located in Jackson County, the village served as an important hub for the lumber industry during Wisconsin's early development. After the lumber boom, Melrose's mill and proximity to water helped support the development of the agricultural industry that is so abundant in southwest Wisconsin. In 1854, the village post office was established, and the community name was changed to Melrose. In 1913, the village of Melrose was incorporated.

With a population of 503 residents, Melrose is proud of its many close-knit community connections. The village boasts two wonderful