

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

Dear Colleague,

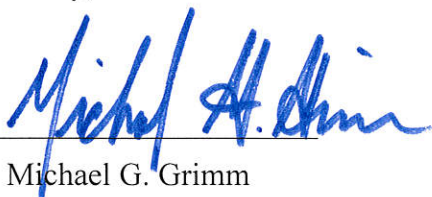
One of the most enduring traditions of the American financial system has been the ability of small mutual community banks to serve as engines of prosperity in their communities. Unlike the most financial institutions they have no stockholders, but rather are owned by their depositors. They exist for only one purpose, to provide local, economical finance to their customers and their community. These customers are persons seeking home mortgages, consumer loans and small business loans. Mutual banks make decisions based not on the short term earning pressures but rather based on what will be best for the institution and the community over the long term. They answer to a higher authority the community at large, our constituents.

Unfortunately, the one size fits all approach to the regulation of financial institutions not only burdens the ability of mutual banks to thrive but in some cases literally their ability to survive. We should have a regulatory system that treats each form of financial institution fairly, recognizing its unique characteristics. To place disproportionate burdens on mutual banks threatens the survival of a entire class of well managed sound institutions that have served our constituents exceedingly well for almost two centuries

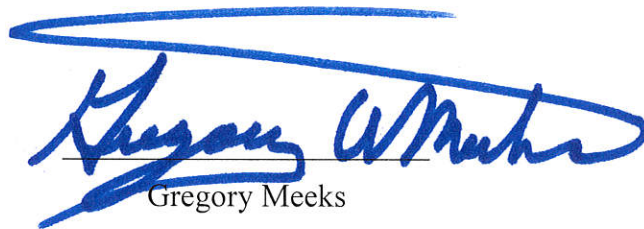
To that end on April 17, 2013 we introduced HR1603 the “ Mutual Community Bank Competitive Equality Act”. That Bill would give mutual banks many of the same authorities that their stock brethren enjoy today and remove irrational and unintended regulatory burdens .

If you would like to co-sponsor this bi-partisan, common sense legislation please contact Richard Hoffmann (5-3371, [Richard.Hoffmann@mail.house.gov](mailto:Richard.Hoffmann@mail.house.gov)) in Rep. Grimm’s office or Ben Branch (5-3461, [Ben.Branch@mail.house.gov](mailto:Ben.Branch@mail.house.gov)) in Rep. Meek’s office.

Sincerely,



Michael G. Grimm  
Member of Congress



Gregory Meeks  
Member of Congress