

Congressman Daniel B. Maffei (NY-25)
Statement on Miller-Moore-Donnelly-Foster-Perlmutter-Maffei-Kosmas-
Peters-Green-Driehaus-Cleaver-Carson Amendment to H.R. 3126
House Committee on Financial Services
October 15, 2009

Chairman Frank and Congressmen Miller, thank you for your efforts on this important amendment. I am proud to have worked with you to find the right balance between enhancing consumer protection and treating community banks and credit unions fairly.

Community banks and credit unions across my district are those who have continued to lend throughout this very tough economic time. They have endured the systemic loss of failed banks by way of challenging FDIC special assessments. These banks and credit unions are members of our community who keep business projects, car financing, and home loans a reality for our neighbors when the larger entities are merely working to stay afloat and shore up balance sheets to ensure financial stability. I know our experience in upstate New York is the same as most everyone else sitting on the diocese today.

Clearly, community bankers and credit unions have different circumstances with regard to federal compliance than large banks and non-banks. We

ought to recognize their special role in our communities and the limited capacity they have to allocate employees and hours on compliance.

I believe the Miller-Moore amendment strikes the right balance. It ensures that small banks with assets under \$10 billion and credit unions with assets under \$1.5 billion are able to remain under the supervision of their prudential regulator for purposes of compliance examinations and enforcement. The newly created Consumer Financial Protection Agency (CFPA) will retain the right to send a representative to participate in compliance examinations and if the agency determines the prudential regulator has failed to conduct consumer compliance exams adequately, it may remove the prudential regulator as examiner. Further, the CFPA can take public enforcement actions.

Again, thank you for your hard work on these critical issues. I'm proud to stand with you in offering this amendment today and look forward to its approval. I urge my colleagues to support the amendment for the good of our local credit unions and community banks.