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March 20, 2020

The Honorable Maxine Waters Chairwoman Committee on Financial Services United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patrick McHenry Ranking Member Committee on Financial Services United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

Re: H.R. 2305 Veteran Business Lending Exemption

Dear Chairwoman Waters and Ranking Member McHenry:

On behalf of America's 181 Defense Credit Unions and over 25 million members, I am writing to urge support of bi-partisan introduction of H.R. 2305, legislation that would exempt business loans made to veterans from current business lending caps. As part of our response to the growing economic strain that COVID-19 is causing our country, the Defense Credit Union Council will continue to support Congressional efforts to assist our Nation's veterans and their families.

America's Defense Credit Unions are uniquely positioned and structured to offer this kind of support given our location on every permanent military installation around the world and the fact that the majority of our members are veterans or will soon transition out of the military. More importantly, a number of these veterans are small-business owners and need access to capital.

This is where America's Defense Credit Unions can help bridge the gap. Our 25 million members are predominantly servicemembers and our volunteer boards of directors consist of veterans who understand these difficulties. Exempting loans made to veterans from the artificial member business lending caps not only makes it much easier to extend business credit to America's Veteran-Owned Businesses, it also sends a clear signal that our nation recognizes their impact in fostering entrepreneurship successfully building our economy.

If there is anything more we can do to encourage other Members of Congress to support this legislation, please let us know. My office can be reached at (202) 734-5007 or at ahernandez@dcuc.org.

Sincerely,

Anthony R. Hernandez