



DCUC
DEFENSE CREDIT UNION COUNCIL

1627 Eye St, NW
Suite 935
Washington, DC 20006

202.734.5007
www.dcuc.org

Jason Stverak
Chief Advocacy Officer

July 22, 2024

The Honorable Nick LaLota
United States House of Representatives
Subcommittee Chairman
2361 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hillary Scholten
United States House of Representatives
Subcommittee Ranking Member
2361 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman LaLota and Ranking Member Scholten:

On behalf of America's 182 Defense Credit Unions and almost 40 million members, I am writing to provide commentary for the upcoming hearing entitled, "***Leveling the Playing Field: Examining the Landscape of Veteran Owned Small Businesses.***" Central to any discussion of the landscape of Veteran Owned Small Businesses must be the unfair and arbitrary business member loan cap of 12.25% that is placed on credit unions hindering their ability to serve veteran owned small businesses. We would encourage the committee to support the bipartisan bill, H.R.4867, the Veterans Member Business Loan Act.

This bill would exclude from credit union member business loans made to veterans from 12 U.S.C 1757a of the US Code. Defense Credit Unions are uniquely positioned to serve veterans as they work to start small businesses as they transition to the private sector. Removal of the cap would provide additional economic stimulus without costing taxpayer dollars. Credit unions remain committed to helping America's small businesses while maintaining safe liquidity ratios.

However, we are prevented from doing more to help America's veterans start small businesses due to this outdated Member Business Lending (MBL) cap. Our members stand ready to do more now to help America's veterans.

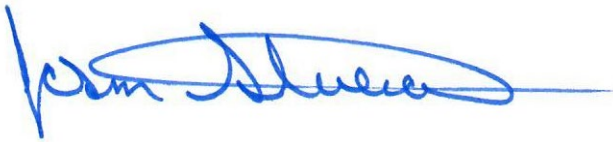
America's Defense Credit Unions are uniquely positioned and structured to provide this additional support in the communities where we work, live and play. It is our hope to provide veterans and their families access to the capital they need to get their small businesses off the ground and help them provide payroll, rent and other essential business functions.

Lifting this cap for veterans helps pay back the sacrifices they made in defense of our nation. No one understands that committee better than Defense Credit Unions.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to these concerns. We would like to offer an opportunity for you or your staff to meet with us in person or on a zoom call to discuss the issue and our thoughts in greater detail.

Thank you for the opportunity to bring these matters to your attention. Should you have any questions or desire additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 202.557.8528 or by email at jstverak@dcuc.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jason Stverak", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jason Stverak