

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 6, 2013

David Silberman
Associate Director, Research, Markets, and Regulations
Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
1700 G Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20552

Dear Associate Director Silberman:

We are writing to you concerning the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's (CFPB) definition of rural counties as it applies to qualified mortgages under the Ability-to-Repay (ATR) rule.

Under section 1412 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (P.L. 111-203), balloon payments in rural or underserved areas are considered qualified mortgages. Unfortunately, CFPB's method of defining rural, using the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Urban Influence Codes, excludes numerous counties in Ohio that should and need to be included in this definition.

The current CFPB definition of rural will have a negative effect on protections for community lenders who provide balloon mortgages to farmers, small businesses, and other trusted members of the community. Without a revised definition of rural, many qualified borrowers in counties across Ohio will not be able to get a mortgage.

We are pleased that the CFPB recently announced a two-year transition period to review the current definition of rural and will allow for Qualified Mortgage (QM) protection for many small creditors who make balloon payment mortgages. During the review process, we strongly urge the CFPB to reconsider their definition of rural for the purposes of balloon mortgages and use a method that provides a more accurate definition of Ohio's and America's rural counties. Thank you for your time and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



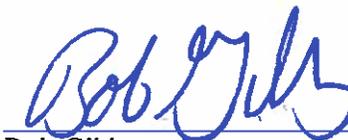
Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress



Rob Portman
United States Senator



Steve Chabot
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress

Bill Johnson

Bill Johnson
Member of Congress

Jim Jordan

Jim Jordan
Member of Congress

David P. Joyce

David Joyce
Member of Congress

Jim Renacci

Jim Renacci
Member of Congress

Steve Stivers

Steve Stivers
Member of Congress

Pat Tiberi

Pat Tiberi
Member of Congress

Michael R. Turner

Michael Turner
Member of Congress

Brad R. Wenstrup

Brad Wenstrup
Member of Congress