

ROBERT E. LATTA  
5TH DISTRICT, OHIO

ASSISTANT MINORITY WHIP

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

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RISK MANAGEMENT

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RAILROADS, PIPELINES, AND HAZARDOUS  
MATERIALS

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3505**

October 22, 2009

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The Honorable Barney Frank  
Chairman  
Committee on Financial Services  
United States House of Representatives  
2129 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nydia M. Velázquez  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Small Business  
United States House of Representatives  
2361 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

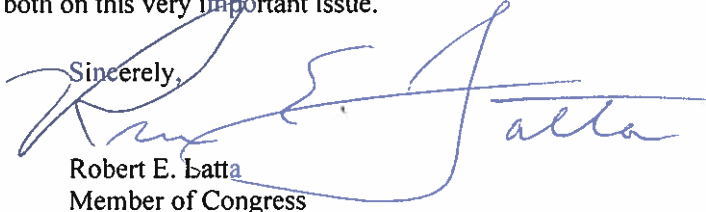
Dear Chairman Frank and Chairwoman Velázquez,

I hear almost daily from small businesses in my district, the 5<sup>th</sup> District of Ohio, regarding their inability to obtain loans and lines of credit from banks. These are businesses that have been in business for many, many years and employ the majority of constituents in my district. I feel there is a complete disconnect between lenders and small businesses regarding the accessibility to loans. I am requesting that you hold a joint hearing of the House Financial Services Committee and the House Small Business Committee to examine the lack of lending that is occurring to small businesses.

Over the past six months, I have repeatedly met with banks, both large and small, that express that they have funds to lend to small businesses. However, I repeatedly hear from small businesses that they are unable to get loans. These are often businesses that have good credit and no standing debt, yet they are unable to get any financing. These same companies are also unable to get loans through the Small Business Administration's various programs. This scenario that I keep hearing over and over simply does not make sense. To that end, I am more than willing to testify in a joint hearing regarding the specific experiences that these small businesses are facing, as well as have several of these businesses testify themselves at such a hearing. We must come to a solution regarding this impasse that these small businesses are facing in this current economic climate.

Given the state of our economy, Congress must do something to assist the small businesses. They are a key component for economic development and the catalyst for America's economic renewal. The future of our country depends on a proactive approach to creating viable solutions for small business owners to succeed and remain profitable. I look forward to working with you both on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

  
Robert E. Latta  
Member of Congress

REL/ahw

Cc: The Honorable Spencer Bachus, Ranking Member, Committee on Financial Services, USHR  
The Honorable Sam Graves, Ranking Member, Committee on Small Business, USHR