



# LEGISLATIVE OUTREACH

Community Bankers Association of Illinois  
*Department of Governmental Relations*

## **CBAI ACTION ALERT** **Urge a Halt to FCS Mission Creep**

Register your opposition to the FCS mission creep with Illinois Senators Richard Durbin and Mark Kirk. FCS lenders are cherry picking community bank farm loans (while ignoring young, beginning and small farmers), and lending to some of America's largest corporations (such as Verizon, AT&T and U.S. Cellular). Yesterday, ICBA testified before the Senate Agriculture Committee and said that the FCS is undermining rural credit availability and weakening community banks. Your response to this Action Alert will help support the efforts of ICBA and CBAI in working with the Senate and House agricultural committee to address the FCS mission creep. Please respond to this Alert even if the FCS is not a competitor in your area to help support your fellow community bankers who are faced with this fierce and unfair competition on a daily basis.

Congress provided the Farm Credit System (FCS) with tax and funding advantages in the early years of the previous century to provide farmers and ranchers access to long-term, fixed-rate credit at a time when such credit was limited. While community banks are providing their farm borrowers with ample credit, the FCS has used its tax subsidies to offer below-market rates to large farming operations, and is trying to reposition itself as a general-purpose lender. Although the FCS has been unsuccessful lobbying Congress for expanded Member Business Lending authority, The Farm Credit Administration, the "cheerleader" regulator of the System, has gone out of its way to ignore Farm Credit Act restrictions and allow FCS lenders to make nonfarm loans to businesses and infrastructure projects if labeled "investments."

The FCS mission creep has to stop.

**[PLEASE TAKE ACTION NOW!](#)**

**Please share this Action Alert with your board members and senior management.**

**We need a strong response from Illinois community bankers.**

**Thank you for responding!**

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