



## **Congress Now Back in Washington... Keep Communicating!**

Although the congressional recess is over, community bankers are encouraged to continue contacting your congressmen to convey your positions on the significant financial restructuring and other related issues pending action in Congress.

Thanks to the efforts of thousands of community bankers across America, policymakers are well-aware that the crippling financial and economic crisis was caused primarily by the big money center banks and Wall Street greed. Congressmen now understand the importance of our close ties to our communities and the value of our common sense banking practices. They know that community banks did not cause the crisis.

We community bankers need to be fully engaged in the debate on financial restructuring to make sure that Congress does not unintentionally harm community banks with their proposed solutions and that meaningful reforms are enacted.

Although there are many issues affecting community banks that Congress will address this session, CBAI recommends that you focus your congressional contacts on the following issues:

- [H.R. 3126](#), the Consumer Financial Protection Agency Act of 2009
- [H.R. 2897](#), the Bank Accountability and Risk Assessment Act of 2009, and [CBAI's Letter to Congressmen](#) urging their support and co-sponsorship
- [Regulatory Restructuring](#)
- [Congressional Contact Information](#)

### ***CBAI Bankers Meet with House Financial Services Committee Members***

CBAI staff and more than 20 community bankers met with Representative Melissa Bean (D-8), Representative Judy Biggert (R-13), and Representative Bill Foster (D-14) on Monday and Tuesday of this week. The community bankers urged each congressman to support and co-sponsor HR 2897, which permanently changes the FDIC premium assessment method to be based on total assets minus tangible capital. The measure also creates a special systemic-risk premium for too-big-to-fail institutions. The community banking message was well received by all three congressional members who agreed that community banks did not engage in the irresponsible practices that caused the financial crisis.

Community bankers also voiced many concerns over HR 3126, the Consumer Financial Protection Agency. The Congressmen concurred that community banks are already over-regulated. The bankers argued that additional regulation would be counter productive and not be in the best interest of community bank customers.

Finally, the bankers effectively argued that Congress needs to address the too-big-to fail issue by establishing a systemic-risk regulator with real enforcement powers to better regulate and break up the mega banks when deemed necessary.

CBAI thanks all the bankers who participated in these grassroots lobbying sessions. The important messages were effectively delivered at a critical time during the financial restructuring debate.