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To: Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL MESSAGE] Comment re RIN: 3064-AF29

The community of Hillsborough has continued to try and make do of the tough economic times that have hit our town. This extends to our area’s housing market, where things remain very competitive as families attempt to buy their first home. Things may now only get worse from here as debate continues over whether to pass a regulation that would increase capital requirements for U.S. banks.

This rule is set to have dire effects on first time homebuyers trying to achieve a key piece of the American dream. According to the Mortgage Bankers Association, credit availability for homes is already the tightest it has been in a decade, something that is only bound to get worse with this regulation. This is issued from the reality that higher bank capital requirements would force banks to provide fewer borrowing options at a more expensive rate. As a result, we would face an unprecedented affordability crisis that would leave families across Hillsborough and North Carolina looking on the outside of the housing market for years.

We don’t have to enforce this regulation to strengthen the reserves of our nation’s banks. In fact, U.S. banks already have one of the highest capital requirements in the world, while also being mandated to key financial stress tests that ensure they are well equipped for future economic downturns. Our economic leaders have added to this, with Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen reassuring us that “the American banking system is really safe and well-capitalized, it’s resilient.” All this makes it clear that this is an unnecessary regulation for the country’s banking system.

We must continue to work hard to ensure that owning a home remains a part of the American dream, not a fragment of it. That’s why President Biden and Vice President Harris have worked relentlessly to provide this opportunity to all Americans over the last few years. Let’s make sure that we continue their efforts to make housing affordable by rejecting the proposal to raise capital requirements.

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