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8TH DISTRICT, TENNESSEE

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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Washington, DC 20318-4208

August 10, 2012
CHAIRMAN

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The Honorable Ben S. Bernanke
Chairman
Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System
20th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20551

Dear Chairman Bernanke,

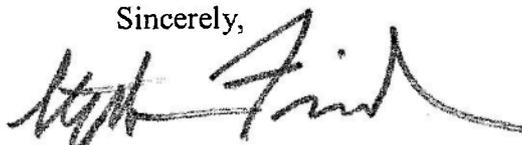
I write today to request that you consider a ninety day extension of the comment period for the Basel III proposed rules, which currently expires on September 7, 2012.

Many of the banks in Tennessee I represent are community and mid-size banks. Many of these banks have dedicated numerous employees and resources to understanding the impact the Basel III proposed rules will have on their companies in order to provide meaningful comments. However, the resources that community and mid-size banks are able to dedicate to these efforts do not compare to those of larger financial institutions.

Therefore, given the length and complexity of the rules, additional time for commenting would be justified, especially in order to provide community and mid-size banks a better opportunity to weigh-in on the impact these rules will have on their industry. In addition, a longer comment period will lead to more substantive comments from both smaller and larger banks, which in turn will be much more useful to reviewers. The more thorough the comments provided, the better the rule will be when finalized.

I appreciate your consideration of this request, and look forward to receiving a favorable response.

Sincerely,



Stephen L. Fincher
Member of Congress