



news release

Contact:
Jason E. Ebey, Membership-Governmental Relations
Bossier Chamber of Commerce
318.746.0252
ebey@bossierchamber.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Consumer Financial Protection Agency set to hurt businesses and consumers alike

Bossier City, LA – September 28, 2009

The Bossier Chamber of Commerce has announced its opposition to H.R. 3126, the Consumer Financial Protection Agency Act of 2009 (CFPA). While the national headlines seem to be dominated by healthcare reform and climate changes, CFPA is lining up to be the next major issue in Washington.

Rather than address the failures in regulation that contributed to the national current financial crisis, CFPA will create a massive, new government agency that will restrict access to credit and affordable financial products, impose vast new regulations and cost on businesses and ultimately harm the economy at exactly the time signs of a recovery are being seen.

An overwhelming majority of Bossier Chamber of Commerce members will be affected by this proposed legislation as it will regulate any business that allows customers to pay with credit, to use a lay-a-away program, pay from an invoice or even pay in more than one installment. Even businesses that are indirectly related to consumer finance, such as sellers of gift cards, advertisers, accountants, homebuilders, utilities and internet providers, will be covered by CFPA.

"If CFPA were enacted and passed by Congress, it would have a considerable adverse effect on small businesses by restricting their access to credit while imposing fees and penalties on them," said Kara Lowrie of Acadiana Mortgage, Vice President of Governmental Affairs for the Bossier Chamber of Commerce. "Efforts to enhance consumer protection should focus on weeding out fraudulent actors and predatory products and ensuring consumers have the access to clear and concise information about the terms and conditions of products and the risks they pose."



Not only will CFPA have a sweeping overreach into the business community but it will also have the authority to mandate that any company offering a consumer financial product has to offer a product with terms and conditions set by the government. This mandate could discourage many financial institutions, particularly small organizations, from offering alternative products tailored to meet consumer needs.

“While the Chamber does not dispute that there are certainly excesses in the financial service industry that hurt many Americans, the unintended results of this piece of legislation far exceeds the intended results,” said Lowrie. “The scope of this bill is so broad and the powers are so massive that it reaches to the smallest businesses in Bossier Parish.”

A website, www.voiceofnwlabusiness.com, will be launched by the Bossier Chamber of Commerce by the end of this week to educate Chamber members and the public at-large of the effects of this bill. Lowrie served as a panelist on the U.S. Chamber of Commerce’s Center for Capital Markets Competitiveness panel discussion “Regulatory Reform: Ensuring Consumers Get the Protections They Need and Choices They Want” on Thursday, September 24, 2009. The discussion will be available for viewing on the new website.

The mission of the Bossier Chamber of Commerce is the advancement of the civic, commercial, industrial, and agricultural interest of Bossier Parish; the promotion of the general welfare and prosperity of the Parish; and, the stimulation of public interest for these purposes. The Bossier Chamber of Commerce is a private, nonprofit organization supported by more than 900 businesses, professional and industrial firms, community members, organizations, and public utilities throughout the Bossier-Caddo area.

- ### -