



Credit Union National Association

cuna.org

601 Pennsylvania Ave., NW | South Building, Suite 600 | Washington, DC 20004-2601 | PHONE: 202-638-5777 | FAX: 202-638-7734

March 28, 2011

Regulatory Policy and Programs Division
Department of the Treasury
P.O. Box 39
Vienna, VA 22183

Attention: PRA Comments-CTR Database; BSA-DOEP Database

RE: Bank Secrecy Act Currency Transaction Report (CTR) and
Designation of Exempt Person Report (DEOP) Proposed Data Fields

To Whom It May Concern:

The Credit Union National Association (CUNA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network's (FinCEN's) notice and request for comments concerning the Bank Secrecy Act (BSA) Currency Transaction Report (CTR) and Designation of Exempt Person Report (DOEP) proposed data fields. By way of background, CUNA is the largest credit union trade organization in this country, representing approximately 90 percent of our nation's 7600 state and federal credit unions, which serve more than 3 million members.

We applaud FinCEN on its continuing efforts to lessen the regulatory burdens associated with Bank Secrecy Act (BSA) filing requirements. In general, we support FinCEN's efforts to further modernize the BSA report filing process. However, we do have some concerns.

We anticipate our institutions will incur substantial start-up and maintenance costs, as well as have to undertake significant staff training efforts to transition to the new BSA database. Ultimately, the costs associated with the transition will be impacted by the ability of FinCEN's technology to communicate with existing credit union systems. Additionally, we believe this transition will prove to be particularly burdensome for some of our smaller institutions. It is also expected that manpower and monetary costs related to the transition will be more extensive for institutions that are not currently using the e-file process. Finally, some of our institutions have expressed concern that the manual paper filing process for BSA reports will be eliminated and replaced by a completely electronic filing mechanism.

We believe that it will be difficult for our institutions to determine if the agency's burden estimates are accurate without having had an opportunity



OFFICES: | WASHINGTON, D.C. | MADISON, WISCONSIN

to test the system. Therefore, we suggest that FinCEN consider developing a pilot program that allows institutions of various asset sizes and technological abilities to test the system prior to its “live” date. Such a program would enable institutions to identify issues prior to system implementation, as well as get a true sense of the time commitment necessary for report filing using the proposed data fields.

The proposal included a number of data field elements that would be provided via “third party data.” We would like clarification on how these data elements would be addressed if they weren’t supplied as anticipated under the proposal. If these data elements are not provided as expected but institutions are nonetheless required to provide this information, they will have increased filing burdens.

In light of these concerns, we ask that FinCEN take all necessary steps to minimize the burdens accompanying this modernization effort. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal. If you have any questions concerning our letter, please do not hesitate to contact me at 202-508-6739.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Seabron". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Nichole Seabron
Federal Compliance Counsel