



Jim Nussle
President & CEO

Phone: 202-508-6745
jnussle@cuna.coop

99 M Street SE Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20003-3799

June 20, 2018

The Honorable Bob Corker
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bob Menendez
Ranking Member
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Corker and Ranking Member Menendez:

On behalf of America's Credit Unions, thank you for holding this hearing entitled "USAID Resources and Redesign". There are over 68,000 credit unions in 109 countries with USD 1.8 trillion in total assets serving 235 million physical person members. The Credit Union National Association (CUNA) represents America's Credit Unions and their 110 million members. CUNA is also a member of the World Council of Credit Unions (WOCCU) which is the leading trade association and development organization for the international credit union movement.

Since 1971, WOCCU has offered nearly 300 technical assistance programs around the globe – all while serving the mission of improving lives through credit unions and other cooperative financial institutions. WOCCU's programs provide education and international networking for the exchange of information and ideas.

WOCCU supports financial markets in growing economies along with global partners like the UN, World Bank and USAID by promoting financial inclusion, strengthening institutions and providing policy and regulatory support under the mission that all people should have access to affordable, reliable and sustainable financial services.

In 2018, WOCCU is engaged in development projects in 6 countries: Colombia, Guatemala, Haiti, Kenya, Uganda and Ukraine. These programs focus on developing digital solutions to expand financial inclusion, increasing access to agricultural finance, incentivizing the creation of affordable housing options, and promoting safe and sound legal and regulatory frameworks. These current and past projects demonstrate a proven track record of promoting local self-reliance, democratic governance, national security and long-term private sector development solutions domestically and overseas.

CUNA urges Congress to encourage the Administrator of the US Agency for International Development to prioritize procurement reforms that level the playing field for smaller development contractors, such as those credit unions and other cooperatives that helped achieve successful rural development in the United States in the 20th Century and which today have ties to organizations overseas that can help promote local self-reliance.

On behalf of America's Credit Unions and their 110 million members, thank you for holding this important hearing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Nussle".

Jim Nussle
President & CEO