

**OPENING REMARKS OF THE HONORABLE RUBÉN HINOJOSA
HOUSE FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
“CREDIT UNION REGULATORY IMPROVEMENTS”
JULY 20, 2004**

Chairman Bachus and Ranking Member Sanders,

I want to thank you for holding this hearing to examine proposals that would provide additional regulatory relief for credit unions. This Committee provided them and other financial services institutions with regulatory relief in HR 1375, the “Financial Services Relief Act of 2003” that the House passed in March of this year.

I understand that we will also be discussing HR 3579, the “Credit Union Regulatory Improvements Act,” otherwise known as “CURIA.” This legislation contains a majority of the regulatory relief provisions for credit unions the House already granted them when it passed HR 1375 while adding four provisions not previously considered.

While it is prudent to provide regulatory relief to all financial institutions after considerable debate, I am a bit confused as to why we are considering providing additional regulatory relief to credit unions at this time when the “Financial Services Relief Act of 2003” remains in play. I hope that the witnesses will address this concern as well as one that I have concerning commercial lending limits.

I am researching how an increase in commercial lending limits would help improve the growth of the financial services marketplace and allow for competitors to allow equal access to capital.

Whatever action we take, if any, we must ensure that it levels the playing field for all of our financial institutions. Fair competition among our financial institutions is one of the keys to a successful economy.

I yield back the balance of my time.