

August 25, 2017

The Honorable Bill Foster
United States Representative 11th District
1224 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: *Support H.R. 2319/S. 1117, the Consumer Financial Choice and Capital Markets Protection Act.*

Dear Congressman Foster,

I respectfully request that you support for H.R. 2319 and S. 1117, the Consumer Financial Choice and Capital Markets Protection Act 2017.

State and municipal governments rely on access to money market funds to finance economic development and public infrastructure in Illinois. Unfortunately, the ability to access money market funds has been severely hampered by a Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) rule that requires prime and tax-exempt money market funds offered to institutional investors to no longer use amortized cost accounting to operate on a stable \$1-per share net asset value (NAV) basis. Instead, since October 14, 2016, such funds are required to use a floating NAV. As a result, tax-exempt money market funds, a key source of funding for municipalities and their conduit borrowers, shrunk by more than 50 percent nationally, and total money market fund holdings of Illinois tax-exempt debt declined by 65 percent. This has driven up the cost of borrowing for all of our state entities.

H.R. 2319 and S. 1117 will restore the \$1-per-share NAV, allowing access to low cost public and private sector financing provided by prime and tax-exempt money market funds. I urge you to cosponsor this legislation to help Illinois municipalities continue to access a safe and secure source of low-cost variable rate borrowing to finance public infrastructure projects and foster economic growth.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Cunningham". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light grey circular stamp.

Bill Cunningham
State Senator
18th District