



**MON YOUGH AREA
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE**
BUSINESS • COMMUNITY • PROSPERITY

4304 Walnut Street, Suite 2
McKeesport, PA 15232

Phone: 412.678.2450
Fax: 412.678.2451

monyoughchamber.com

November 28, 2017

The Honorable Bob Casey
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Casey:

As president of a chamber of commerce serving the Mon Valley area of southwestern Pennsylvania, I am writing to request your support for S. 1117, the Consumer Financial Choice and Capital Markets Protection Act 2017.

This bipartisan legislation will increase access to capital for businesses in our state, and restore our ability to earn market rates of return on the investment of operating cash in money market funds.

As a result of a Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) rule that went into effect in October 2016, businesses are no longer able to invest in stable value prime money market funds, which are safe, liquid investments that historically provide a reasonable rate of return on our short-term operating cash reserves. Instead, to utilize the benefits of a stable share price to efficiently and affordably manage cash that can be invested and withdrawn on a daily basis, they are required to utilize only money market funds that invest in the debt of the U.S. government, thereby foregoing 25-30 basis points of earnings that could be used to invest in business and community.

The SEC rule is also forcing businesses to pay higher borrowing costs and incur more credit limits from commercial banks. That's because the large, highly rated corporate borrowers have been able to replace their lost prime money market fund debt with bank borrowings, thereby crowding out bank lending to main street businesses. Some small businesses are now paying higher rates to alternative lenders while others are unable to borrow at any competitive rate. According to a study by Treasury Strategies, a Chicago-based treasury management consulting firm, for each \$1 billion of prime money market fund debt that a large company replaces with bank borrowing, 10,000 main street businesses lose access to \$100,000 in funding.

These are significant costs for small businesses to pay to address a non-existent risk. In the 40-year history of money market funds, only two funds have not maintained the stable \$1.00 per share price day in and day out. Over the same period, thousands of banks have failed.

I ask that you cosponsor and vote for S. 1117, which would restore the stable net asset value (NAV) for all money market fund investors. In doing so, you would be restoring an investment and short-term financing option that has been indispensable to small business expansion and economic growth in Pennsylvania and throughout the country. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maury H. Burgwin". The ink is dark and the signature is written in a fluid, personal style.

Maury Burgwin
President, Mon Yough Area Chamber of Commerce