



March 1, 2016

The Honorable Jeb Hensarling
Chairman
Financial Services Committee
2129 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Maxine Waters
Ranking Member
Financial Services Committee
2129 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Hensarling and Ranking Member Waters:

On behalf of the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA), I am writing in support of H.R. 4096, the Investor Clarity and Bank Parity Act. This bipartisan bill would make a targeted, technical correction to Section 613 of the Dodd-Frank Act, commonly known as the Volcker Rule, that would ensure transparency and investor certainty while preserving the original intent of the Volcker Rule.

The Volcker Rule's final implementing regulations placed significant restrictions on the ability of bank entities, and investment managers owned by banks, to sponsor hedge funds and private equity funds. The intent is to prevent investor confusion about who ultimately bears the risk of loss associated with covered funds. However, in promulgating the final rule, this "naming prohibition" was extended to individual investment advisors that manage the funds. Since many private funds are appropriately named to include a reference to the investment adviser that manages the investments in the fund, the "naming prohibition" would likely only confuse investors without providing any additional safeguards. H.R. 4096 would amend the "naming prohibition" to permit a separately branded investment adviser the ability to share their name with the funds it manages.

Legislative action is imperative to provide relief from the overly strict naming restrictions in the final Volcker Rule. We encourage you to advance this important legislation to remove this unnecessary and burdensome restriction.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue. We look forward to working with you and your staff toward final passage of this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andy Blocker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Andy Blocker
Executive Vice President, Public Policy & Advocacy