

Opening Statement

Congressman Paul E. Gillmor (R-OH)

Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit

May 19, 2005

Hearing entitled: "Financial Services Regulatory Relief: Private Sector Perspectives."

I want to thank Chairman Bachus for calling this hearing today. There is no doubt that our regulatory structure has contributed to the United States becoming the model for the world when it comes to financial services, but without constant attention to the burdens of outdated regulation, the markets can be dragged down by unnecessary costs. Last Congress, the House passed H.R. 1375 with bipartisan support and I hope that this Congress, our Committee will again pass measures that provide regulatory relief to our banks, thrifts and credit unions.

Much of the problem with the current regulatory structure is that small banks are treated as large banks in a "one-size-fits-all" approach. Whether it is provisions of the USA-Patriot Act or Sarbanes-Oxley, small banks have faced enormous new cost in complying with regulations that may not have much benefit to our banking system.

I look forward to working with Chairman Oxley and Chairman Bachus in again passing regulatory relief measures so that our depository institutions may remain the most efficient in the world.