

Montana

- Oppose any notion to eliminate our tax-exempt status. Why? Treating credit unions like for-profit banking institutions will cause them to behave like banking institutions - resulting in substantial declines in both member and nonmember benefits.
- **A tax on credit unions is a tax on Montana's 349,000 credit union members.**
- Those who want to tax credit unions really want to put credit unions out of business. Taxation would fundamentally alter or destroy the credit union system as we know it.
- Do not buy into the banker-driven argument that large credit unions should be taxed. Credit unions of all sizes are still not-for-profit, member-owned cooperatives and provide substantial benefits to their members.
- Taxing credit unions just doesn't add up because credit unions provide benefits far in excess of the amount that might be obtained through imposition of federal income taxes.

TAX CREDIT UNIONS? IT DOESN'T ADD UP	
Estimated annual increase in federal income tax revenue arising from credit union taxation in Montana	+ \$7,421,000
Estimated annual decline in Montana's credit union member benefits arising from change in the tax status and subsequent operational changes (a direct loss to Montana's 349,000 credit union member-owners). (1)	- \$46,425,000
Estimated annual decline in Montana's bank customer benefits arising from greatly reduced influence of credit unions. (2)	- \$14,092,000
Net annual economic impact on credit union taxation in your state	= -\$53,096,000

¹Estimates of credit union member benefits are derived by measuring differences between bank and credit union interest rates and fees. The benefits to credit union members arise because credit unions pay higher rates on deposits, charge less for loans, and impose fewer and lower fees. Hampel, Bill and Schenk, Mike, CUNA Research & Policy Analysis. "The Benefits of Credit Union Membership". http://www.cuna.org/member/download/whpaper_mmbbrshp.pdf.

²Estimates of bank customer benefits are derived by measuring the extent to which the existence of credit unions moderates bank pricing. Despite this effect banks continue to earn record profits (www.FDIC.gov). For evidence of the effects credit unions have on bank pricing see: Feinberg, Robert, M. American University. "An Analysis of the Benefits of Credit Unions to Bank Loan Customers". September 2004. http://www.cuna.org/member/download/ba_benefits.pdf. Tokle, Robert J., Idaho State University. "An Estimate of the Influence of Credit Unions on Bank CD and Money Market Deposits in the U.S." http://www.cuna.org/member/download/ba_influence.pdf.