

# DAWSON CO-OP CREDIT UNION

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Minnesota Legislature:

I am John Nevins, CEO of Dawson Co-op Credit Union located in rural western Minnesota. I have concern on legislation being involved in restricting credit unions from acquiring bank assets. Back in 2003, the Mayor of Boyd contacted myself after being notified the Bank was closing the branch office in Boyd and willing to deed the building to another financial if they would be willing to serve the community. Our Credit Union felt the obligation to continue to serve the small town twelve miles from Dawson and made the commitment to maintain the facility. Hearing the Credit Union was the option, the bank withdrew the offer of deeding the building to our Credit Union. Regardless, the Credit Union found a location and several years later built a new small branch.

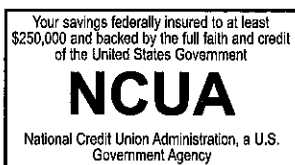
The point is the bank closing the branch in Boyd was not a bad financial decision for their organization. It may also not have been a wise financial decision for our Credit Union to serve a town of 300 people. And that was almost twenty years ago. The population in our small towns continue to age and decline in population. Community banks will continue to determine if it is financially prudent to staff branches in these communities. Bank holding corporations that have purchased multiple locations will need to decide if the small community and inner-city branches are prudent to continue to operate with staffed branches.

This is not a credit union versus bank issue. Future decisions could determine if many citizens in the state of Minnesota will continue to have financial services available in a convenient manner. Consolidation is an issue in every industry, including credit unions and banks. Many consolidations are created to better serve, not simply become larger. Many credit unions would close, including branches in inner-cities, small communities and Indian reservations without merger consolidations. I ask legislation do no restrict financial access when no action is needed on this topic.

Respectfully,



John Nevins



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