

## The Big Sky Country

## MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## REPRESENTATIVE MARY ANN DUNWELL

**HOUSE DISTRICT 84** 

HELENA ADDRESS: CAPITOL BUILDING PO BOX 200400 HELENA, MONTANA 59620-0400 PHONE: (406) 444-4800

HOME ADDRESS: 2520 LOOKOUT CIRCLE HELENA, MT 59601 PHONE: (406) 461-5358

EMAIL: REP.MARYANN.DUNWELL@MT.GOV

COMMITTEES: TAXATION NATURAL RESOURCES LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

September 13, 2016

Hon. Richard Cordray, Director Consumer Financial Protection Bureau 1700 G Street, NW Washington, DC 20552

Re: Docket No. CFPB20160025

Director Cordray,

I applaud the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau for releasing a strong proposed payday and car title lending rule to rein in the worst abusive practices of this industry. However, I respectfully request that you make the rule stronger to ensure the debt trap ends.

I support explicit support for state usury limits in the proposed rule. The Bureau's acknowledgement that state rate caps are an effective tool for protecting consumers will be important in halting industry efforts to roll back protections. Lenders must determine whether or not a consumer has the ability to repay the loan without hardship or re-borrowing. This is a strong and critically important principle and I strongly support it.

In Montana, we have taken action to stop predatory payday lending. My constituents work hard and must be ensured access to safe, affordable lending, not a debt trap. We have seen the enormous positive impact of ending the cycle of payday and car title debt and desperation. Despite industry claims, low income families are better off financially and the bans haven't reduced access to credit.

Thank you for considering my input and support for state usury limits.

Sincerely

Mary Ann Dunwell