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For Immediate Release

Illinois CU execs "Hike the Hill"

Naperville, IL., October 5, 2009 -- A delegation of 16 people, representing 15 credit unions, recently spent two days in Washington, D.C. lobbying legislators as part of the Illinois Credit Union League's (ICUL) annual "Hike the Hill" event.

The first function of the "fly-in/fly-out" event was a presentation by Congressman Peter Roskam (R-6, Wheaton) at Credit Union House. Also part of this breakfast meeting was a briefing by CUNA legislative and public affairs staff.

Following the briefing, the participants proceeded to Capitol Hill for Congressional visits for the rest of the day. The primary federal legislative priorities during the visits were for lawmakers to:

- Support maintaining the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) as the independent federal regulator under the proposed restructuring of the financial service regulatory system;
- Oppose interchange fee cap legislation;
- Oppose Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) regulations for credit unions, and
- Support increasing the Member Business Lending (MBL) limits for federally insured credit unions.

After wrapping up a busy first day on the hill and an informal dinner, the second day of the event provided for optional activities. These included a Constituent Coffee with Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL) and the NCUA Board meeting.

"Our political success over the years has been due in large part to organized events to educate lawmakers about credit unions," said Dan Plauda, ICUL president/chief executive officer. "This year's 'Hike the Hill' was another opportunity for attendees to visit their federal lawmakers and NCUA regulatory officials to maintain a strong political and regulatory future."

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Note: The Illinois Credit Union League (ICUL) is the primary trade association for credit unions in Illinois, which provides members with information, legislation and education. Membership is open to any credit union operating in accordance with the Illinois Credit Union Act or the Federal Credit Union Act. There are 411 credit unions in Illinois with more than 2.7 million members.