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B. Dan Berger
President & Chief Executive Officer

National Association of Federally-Insured Credit Unions

September 8, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Massive Equifax Data Breach Reiterates Need for National Data Security Standards

Dear Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Speaker Ryan, and Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of the National Association of Federally-Insured Credit Unions (NAFCU), the only trade association exclusively representing the federal interests of our nation's federally-insured credit unions, I write today in conjunction with recent reports indicating that Equifax may have suffered one of the largest data breaches ever, to once again urge you to support national data security standards for retailers and others who collect and store consumers' personal and financial information.

Data breaches have become a constant concern of the American people. Major data breaches now occur with an unacceptable level of regularity. A recent Gallup poll found that 69 percent of U.S. adults are frequently or occasionally concerned about having their credit card information stolen by hackers. These staggering survey results speak for themselves and should demonstrate the need for greater national attention to this issue. The massive breach at Equifax, and the report that they had known about it for weeks without notifying consumers, is yet another demonstration of the need for a legislative solution.

Americans' sensitive financial and personally identifiable information will only be as safe as the weakest link in the security chain. While financial institutions, including credit unions, have been subject to federal standards on data security since the passage of the *Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act* (GLBA), retailers and many other entities that handle sensitive personal financial data are not subject to these same standards. Consequently, they have become the vulnerable targets of choice for cybercriminals.

Credit unions suffer steep losses in re-establishing member safety after a data breach occurs. They are often forced to absorb fraud-related losses, many of which stem from a negligent entity's failure to protect sensitive financial and personal information in their systems. As not-

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for-profit cooperatives, credit union members are the ones that are ultimately impacted by these costs.

On behalf of our nation's credit unions and their more than 110 million members, we thank you for your attention to this important matter. Should you have any questions or require any additional information please contact me or Brad Thaler, NAFCU's Vice President of Legislative Affairs, at 703-842-2204 or bthaler@nafcuh.org.

Sincerely,



B. Dan Berger
President and CEO

cc: Members of the United States Senate
Members of the United States House of Representatives