

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 2672
OFFERED BY MR. BARR OF KENTUCKY**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Helping Expand Lend-
3 ing Practices in Rural Communities Act”.

4 SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF A RURAL AREA.

5 Section 1022 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform
6 and Consumer Protection Act (12 U.S.C. 5512) is amend-
7 ed by adding at the end the following new subsection:

8 “(e) DESIGNATION OF A RURAL AREA.—

9 “(1) APPLICATION.—Not later than 90 days
10 after the date of the enactment of this subsection,
11 the Bureau shall establish an application process
12 under which a person who lives or does business in
13 a State may, with respect to an area identified by
14 the person in such State that has not been des-
15 ignated by the Bureau as a rural area for purposes
16 of a Federal consumer financial law, apply for such
17 area to be so designated.

1 “(2) EVALUATION CRITERIA.—When evaluating
2 an application submitted under paragraph (1), the
3 Bureau shall take into consideration the following
4 factors:

5 “(A) Criteria used by the Director of the
6 Bureau of the Census for classifying geo-
7 graphical areas as rural or urban.

8 “(B) Criteria used by the Director of the
9 Office of Management and Budget to designate
10 counties as metropolitan or micropolitan or nei-
11 ther.

12 “(C) Criteria used by the Secretary of Ag-
13 riculture to determine property eligibility for
14 rural development programs.

15 “(D) The Department of Agriculture rural-
16 urban commuting area codes.

17 “(E) A written opinion provided by the
18 State’s bank supervisor, as defined under sec-
19 tion 3(r) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act
20 (12 U.S.C. 1813(r)).

21 “(F) Population density.

22 “(3) PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60
24 days after receiving an application submitted
25 under paragraph (1), the Bureau shall—

1 “(i) publish such application in the
2 Federal Register; and

3 “(ii) make such application available
4 for public comment for not fewer than 90
5 days.

6 “(B) LIMITATION ON ADDITIONAL APPLI-
7 CATIONS.—Nothing in this subsection shall be
8 construed to require the Bureau, during the
9 public comment period with respect to an appli-
10 cation submitted under paragraph (1), to accept
11 an additional application with respect to the
12 area that is the subject of the initial applica-
13 tion.

14 “(4) INFORMATION REQUIRED TO BE PUB-
15 LISHED.—The Bureau shall enter each application
16 submitted under paragraph (1) in a sortable,
17 downloadable database that is publicly accessible
18 through the Web site of the Bureau.

19 “(5) DECISION ON DESIGNATION.—Not later
20 than 90 days after the end of the public comment
21 period under paragraph (3)(A) for an application,
22 the Bureau shall—

23 “(A) grant or deny such application, in
24 whole or in part; and

1 “(B) publish such grant or denial in the
2 Federal Register, along with an explanation of
3 what factors the Bureau relied on in making
4 such determination.

5 “(6) SUBSEQUENT APPLICATIONS.—A decision
6 by the Bureau under paragraph (5) to deny an ap-
7 plication for an area to be designated as a rural area
8 shall not preclude the Bureau from accepting a sub-
9 sequent application submitted under paragraph (1)
10 for such area to be so designated, so long as such
11 subsequent application is made after the end of the
12 90-day period beginning on the date that the Bureau
13 denies the application under paragraph (5).”.

Amend the title so as to read: “To amend the Dodd-
Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act
to provide for an application process for interested par-
ties to apply for an area to be designated as a rural area,
and for other purposes.”.

