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April 2, 2026

Daniel Borman, Brendan Costello, and Carol Rodrigues  
Attorney-Advisors, Office of the General Counsel

**U.S. Department of the Treasury**

1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Washington, DC 20220

*Submitted electronically via regulations.gov — Captioned: "GENIUS Act State Similarity"*

**Re:** Comment in Support of Notice of Proposed Rulemaking — GENIUS Act Broad-Based Principles for Determining Whether a State-Level Regulatory Regime Is Substantially Similar to the Federal Regulatory Framework (RIN 1505-AC90)

Dear Attorney-Advisors Borman, Costello, and Rodrigues:

North Carolina Blockchain + AI (NCB+AI) respectfully submits these comments in strong support of the Department of the Treasury's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) placed on public inspection on April 2, 2026, and published in the Federal Register on April 3, 2026, proposing broad-based principles for determining whether a state-level regulatory regime is substantially similar to the federal regulatory framework under the Guiding and Establishing National Innovation for U.S. Stablecoins (GENIUS) Act (Pub. L. 119–27, 12 U.S.C. 5901 et seq.).

NCB+AI is a 501(c)(6) policy and advocacy organization headquartered in Raleigh, North Carolina, dedicated to positioning North Carolina as a national leader in blockchain and artificial intelligence policy. Our membership includes payment stablecoin issuers, digital asset platforms, fintech companies, and financial institutions operating in North Carolina. We strongly support Treasury's initiative to implement the GENIUS Act's state regulatory pathway promptly and in a manner that is workable for states and issuers alike.

## **I. NCB+AI Strongly Supports This Rulemaking**

The GENIUS Act reflects a deliberate congressional choice to preserve a meaningful role for state regulation of payment stablecoins. Section 4(c) tasks Treasury with establishing the broad-based principles this NPRM proposes, and we commend Treasury for acting swiftly on that mandate. This rulemaking is a critical and

necessary step toward giving state-qualified payment stablecoin issuers — those with consolidated outstanding issuance of \$10 billion or less — the regulatory clarity they need to operate with confidence under state oversight.

NCB+AI fully supports Treasury’s proposed framework, including its determination that the “Federal regulatory framework” appropriately encompasses both the statutory text of the Act and the core implementing regulations of the primary Federal payment stablecoin regulators. This interpretation gives the substantial similarity test real operational content and creates a coherent, administrable standard that protects consumers and financial stability while enabling states to serve as capable, accountable regulators in their own right.

NCB+AI further agrees that a credible state regulatory pathway must support not only innovation and competition, but also the GENIUS Act’s core objectives of promoting financial stability, payment system integrity, and public confidence in dollar–denominated payment stablecoins.

We also strongly support Treasury’s proposed distinction between uniform requirements — where consistent standards across federal and state regimes are essential, such as reserve asset quality, AML compliance, and sanctions program requirements — and State-calibrated requirements, where states retain meaningful flexibility to tailor rules to the business models and risk profiles of issuers operating within their borders. This structure accurately reflects the Act’s text and intent, and NCB+AI believes it will produce a durable and effective regulatory framework for the payment stablecoin ecosystem.

We further support proposed § 1521.6’s recognition that states may impose requirements beyond the federal framework — including enhanced consumer protections and disclosure obligations — without jeopardizing certification under the substantial similarity standard. This provision correctly reflects the Act’s structure and gives states the freedom to be leaders in consumer protection and financial integrity.

## **II. North Carolina Is Ready to Be a Model State Under This Framework**

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North Carolina has made significant legislative and regulatory investments that position it to qualify as a substantially similar state-level regulatory regime, and that track record predates the GENIUS Act by years. In 2020, the North Carolina Blockchain Initiative (NCBI) published a strategic report that laid the policy groundwork for what followed. Its recommendations helped lay the groundwork for the Fintech Regulatory Sandbox Act (2021), creating a structured pathway for blockchain and digital asset businesses to operate and innovate under state oversight — one of the first such frameworks in the Southeast. North Carolina is not a newcomer to this space: it has been building the regulatory infrastructure for digital asset leadership for half a decade.

In September 2024, the North Carolina General Assembly overrode Governor Cooper’s veto to enact House Bill 690 — the landmark anti-CBDC legislation that prohibits state acceptance of Federal Reserve-issued central bank digital currency and bans state participation in Federal Reserve CBDC testing programs. The bill passed with near-unanimous bipartisan support (109–4 in the House, 39–5 in the Senate) and became

law over the Governor's objection, reflecting the depth of the General Assembly's commitment to sound digital asset policy grounded in financial privacy and individual sovereignty. Building on this record, the General Assembly is now advancing the NC GENIUS Act / Digital Asset Banking Act — stablecoin framework legislation intended to align directly with the GENIUS Act's core prudential requirements, including reserve integrity, one-to-one backing, AML and sanctions compliance, and consumer redemption rights. NCB+AI believes North Carolina is prepared to serve as a model for state regulation.

The North Carolina Commissioner of Banks brings a track record of constructive, sophisticated engagement with fintech and digital asset licensees and is well-positioned to serve as the primary state payment stablecoin regulator. NCB+AI is committed to working with the General Assembly, the Commissioner, and Treasury to ensure North Carolina's regulatory regime meets or exceeds the standards the Stablecoin Certification Review Committee will apply.

We believe North Carolina can serve as an early exemplar of the state regulatory pathway the GENIUS Act envisions. The broad-based principles proposed in this NPRM provide exactly the right foundation for that outcome, and we urge Treasury to finalize them promptly.

NCB+AI supports Treasury's proposed definition of the Federal regulatory framework as encompassing the Act's statutory text together with relevant implementing regulations and interpretations published in the Federal Register, with the OCC serving as the principal baseline except where Treasury or the Federal Reserve Board has primary responsibility. NCB+AI supports the broad definition of State-level regulatory regime to include enforceable guidance, preserving state flexibility on codification form (Question 5). NCB+AI supports measuring substantial similarity against the Federal regulatory framework in effect at the time of each state's certification application, with an orderly transition period for subsequent federal changes (Question 16). NCB+AI confirms that North Carolina's forthcoming legislation is designed to cross-reference rather than reproduce BSA/AML and sanctions requirements (Question 25).

### **III. Recommendations to Further Strengthen Implementation**

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In support of this rulemaking, NCB+AI offers the following recommendations to ensure the proposed principles function as effectively as possible in practice:

#### **A. Publish Uniform Requirements with Sufficient Specificity**

The framework will be most effective if states and issuers can clearly identify, at the outset, what the uniform requirements demand. We encourage Treasury to publish accompanying guidance that gives state legislatures and regulators concrete benchmarks — particularly for reserve asset standards, AML/sanctions program requirements, and the one-to-one backing requirement — so that states can enact conforming regimes with confidence and minimize the risk of delays in certification.

#### **B. Establish a Transparent, Time-Bound Certification Process**

The practical value of the state regulatory pathway will depend significantly on the Stablecoin Certification Review Committee operating with speed and predictability. NCB+AI makes three specific requests. First,

Treasury should publish target review timelines for certification decisions so that states and issuers can plan accordingly and hold the Committee accountable to a defined schedule. Second, the Committee should issue deficiency notices identifying any gaps in a state's application and afford states a meaningful cure opportunity before a certification is denied; rejection without notice and an opportunity to respond would undermine the Act's state-pathway objectives and deter participation. Third, Treasury should establish an expedited review track for states whose legislation directly tracks the GENIUS Act's Section 4(a) requirements, recognizing that close statutory alignment warrants a streamlined process and accelerates first-mover adoption. Together, these measures will make state certification a reliable and attractive pathway for issuers making long-term business planning decisions.

### **C. Provide Early Engagement for States Advancing Conforming Legislation**

NCB+AI encourages Treasury to establish a pre-certification engagement channel through which states actively legislating in alignment with the GENIUS Act — such as North Carolina — can receive informal feedback on their regulatory regime prior to a formal application. This would allow states to address any gaps proactively, reduce the risk of failed applications, and accelerate the availability of qualified state pathways for issuers. North Carolina stands ready to participate in any such engagement at Treasury's invitation.

### **D. Facilitate Horizontal Coordination Among Qualifying States**

As multiple states work toward certification, NCB+AI encourages Treasury to facilitate horizontal coordination among qualifying state regulators — through interagency guidance, model examination protocols, or a dedicated forum — to promote consistent interpretation of the substantial similarity standard across state regimes. Coordinated state regulation will strengthen, not fragment, the national payment stablecoin framework and reduce compliance complexity for issuers operating across multiple states.

## **IV. Conclusion**

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NCB+AI strongly supports this rulemaking and urges Treasury to finalize the proposed broad-based principles without delay. A well-functioning state regulatory pathway under the GENIUS Act will expand access to responsible stablecoin issuance, foster innovation across the United States, and demonstrate that states can be effective and accountable stewards of consumer protection in the digital asset economy.

North Carolina stands ready to be a first mover in building a qualifying state-level regime. NCB+AI and our members look forward to continued engagement with Treasury as this framework takes shape, and we welcome the opportunity to discuss North Carolina's legislative and regulatory posture in greater detail.

Respectfully submitted,

**Dan Spuller**

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North Carolina Blockchain + AI

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