

June 24, 2002

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Office of Thrift Supervision
Washington, DC

Comment on Proposed Rule 2002-17

To whom it may concern:

I was told by a friend that you are proposing the elimination of prepayment penalties in states that do not have them written directly into the state law.

I would like to comment on this proposal. Next year, I had planned to buy a new car and use a home-equity line of credit. They are commonly offered in my area without any settlement costs. Some of the mortgage companies offer them with considerably better terms than banks. If I understand correctly what you are proposing, I could no longer get a home-equity line of credit at no cost by simply agreeing not to pay it off for three years.

I believe you are going to do a great disservice to me and others who want the widest possible choice when we shop for a loan. I request that you do not impose the restrictions that you are proposing.

Very truly yours,

Martin Friedman