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**Evans, Sandra E**

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**From:** Lawrence Broadwell [bakpacker1@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 06, 2004 11:05 AM  
**To:** regs.comments@occ.treas.gov; regs.comments@federalreserve.gov; comments@fdic.gov;  
regs.comments@ots.treas.gov  
**Subject:** Proposed CRA Regulations

To: Officials of Federal Bank & Thrift Regulatory Agencies

As a concerned citizen familiar with the sad history of race-based "redlining" by financial institutions and with the enormous good the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) has done for the entire U.S. economy, **I urge you to withdraw the currently proposed changes to CRA regulations.**

Under the present regulations, CRA provides strong inducements for banks to serve ALL parts of the area from which they draw deposits. This increases access to homeownership, strengthens economic development in hard-hit neighborhoods, and encourages entrepreneurship in minority, immigrant, and low- and moderate-income communities. The proposed changes threaten to halt and even reverse CRA's beneficial effects.

By empowering local groups of citizens to monitor and work with their banks, CRA makes thousands and thousands aware of their rights as consumers of financial services. This minimizes the need for expensive regulatory oversight at the same time it encourages diverse elements of communities to collaborate for more development. It also spurs banks to build branches in communities that would otherwise be served, if that is the proper word, by check cashers, payday lenders, and outright predators.

I have read that the current proposal would block citizen oversight of more than one thousand banks with nearly \$400 billion in assets. This would be an extraordinary affront to the communities -- especially rural communities -- served by the so-called "small" banks. In light of the extraordinary support we taxpayers have given financial institutions in the form of deposit insurance, low-interest federal funding and periodic bailouts, CRA is a small burden for ALL financial institutions to assume in exchange.

Your proposed regulations threaten efforts to expand fair access to financial products and services. They threaten to kill the dreams of minorities and low-income Americans who are striving to improve their lives and their communities. By feeding the perception of a return to the old "insider" control of depositors' funds and the bad old days of redlining, they even threaten to tear the social fabric that links Americans with one another.

CRA contributes far too much to economic development and to the bonds in our communities to be gutted. The proposed regulations are badly conceived and must be withdrawn.

Sincerely,

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