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Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2005 1:18 PM
To: Comments, Regs
Subject: #2004-53

January 19, 2005

Chief Counsel's Office

Regulation Comments

Office of Thrift Supervision

1700 G. Street NW

Washington DC 20552

Re: #2004-53

Good morning,

It is my pleasure to comment on the OTS proposal to provide additional flexibility to institutions in meeting the CRA requirements. We believe that it is important to provide choices to each banking institution, allowing the optimal resources to be directed into lending instead of a paper creating bureaucratic function.

We applaud the OTS in its efforts to find better ways to administer the regulatory function. This proposal is definitely an improvement over the current regulation. But the real key is the opportunity provided to each institution, to tailor their CRA program to fit each unique situation. This in turns provides the opportunity to make more loans to more deserving customers, which in the end is the goal of CRA.

Community banking institutions feel the burden of all aspects of the regulatory juggernaut. We appreciate the sensitivity shown by the OTS to our plight. Further, we understand the continual tight rope the agency must walk in balancing efficient regulatory administration with strong safety and soundness.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please keep up the fine work.

Sincerely,

John P. Marvin

President

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