

From: kcooney@bu.edu
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2005 8:25 AM
To: Comments, Regs; ssiddiqi@ncrc.org
Subject: RIN 3064-AC50
Re: No. 2004-53 and 2004-54
Regulation Comments
Chief Counsel's Office
Office of Thrift Supervision
1700 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20552

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please strongly consider the part you can play in protecting the Community Reinvestment Act. The CRA is an important mechanism by which economic development in underserved or redlined areas occurs. Plus, the act has proven that these markets are safe investments! Unregulated capitalism produces vast inequalities. This Act is an important market based strategy to counter the unequal playing field. You have the power to continue the flow of capital toward hard working, small scale entrepreneurs in depressed inner city and rural areas. Please use your power to protect the American Dream! As a socially responsible investor, I am a strong supporter of the Community Reinvestment Act, which has helped combat redlining by lending institutions and provided vitally needed capital to struggling communities.

I urge you to withdraw your proposed changes to CRA regulations, which would seriously weaken the Act by allowing thrifts to obtain CRA credits by financing community development in affluent neighborhoods rather than lower-income neighborhoods, and depriving community organizations of the opportunity to express their concerns in required meetings when two thrifts merge.

Your proposed changes would allow thrifts with more than \$1 billion in assets to pick and choose which community needs they will meet, and would allow large thrifts to eliminate or water down the investment and service tests currently required as part of their CRA exam. The result will be less investment and reduced banking services in lower-income communities.

Yours Sincerely,

Kate Cooney, PhD