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**From:** Tricia [HomebuyerEd@okacaa.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2005 9:24 AM  
**To:** Comments, Regs  
**Subject:** 2004-53 Community Reinvestment Act

IF it is true that you are considering lifting the requirements that financial institutions give back to the communities from which they profit by reducing or eliminating CRA, I must express grave concern.

We must have consistent policy in order to have effective policy. If we are going to reduce dependence on the federal government we must make sure that alternatives are available for appropriate needs and programs to be met through the private sector. Requiring the financial institutions that benefit from a community to place investments in communities is a reasonable alternative.

Without the requirement, financial institution CEO's will be caught in an ethical conundrum: the responsibility of ensuring economic viability in the community vs. the responsibility of delivering the maximum on the bottom line to the stockholders. It doesn't work. You cannot ask the leaders of the private sector to take over if you do not protect them from criticism (and possibly legal action) for reducing profits by doing so.

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