

**Martha L. Lamar**

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*Office of Thrift Supervision*

Re: No. 2004-53 & 2004-54

To whom it may concern:

The Office of Thrift Supervision's proposed changes to the Community Reinvestment Act would result in considerably fewer community development financing and basic banking services in low- and moderate-income communities. Your proposal would allow thrift institutions to design their own watered-down Community Reinvestment Act exams. The thrifts could eliminate the investment and service parts of the CRA exam, meaning that you would not require them to make investments in or provide branches in low- and moderate-income communities. At the same time, your proposal would allow thrifts to finance community development of affluent communities, but avoid lower-income neighborhoods in rural areas and areas afflicted by natural disasters. This is contrary to the basic purpose of CRA which is to combat redlining of low- and moderate-income communities throughout our country. You also propose to reduce opportunities for community groups and citizens to meet with thrifts and your agency to discuss CRA and anti-predatory lending issues when thrifts are merging.

Please withdraw your proposal. It is ill-conceived and destructive. If you have any questions, please call me at 609 896-4493.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Martha L. Lamar*

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