

From: James D'Amour [james@peoplepowerunlimited.com]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2005 8:31 PM
To: Comments, Regs
Subject: "2004-53 Community Reinvestment Act"

To Whom It May Concern:

As a banker who worked for many years at a full service fully-locally-owned and operated local bank, it was with great pride to see my institution participate in the Community Reinvestment Act.

While making a great effort to serve rural communities currently underserved in many sectors with the proposed changes to the CRA, I am a strongly alarmed at these revisions as well. All federally insured financial institutions should continue to be fully accountable under CRA for making investments and providing services.

While my institution served with pride as an important neighbor and friend particularly to the community with business start-ups and low income neighborhoods, the CRA helped the bank make these important first steps available to the community.

Without the CRA in its current form, many growing sectors of our economy would be lost--and while efficiencies and the need for competition may make some of these changes seem desirable. CRA provides room for financial institutions to not be penalized for exercising social responsibility, and building better cities and communities as a result.

Please keep the CRA in its current form.

Thank you,

-James D'Amour
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