

January 23, 2005

The Office of Thrift Supervision

The newest Office of Thrift Supervision proposal; docket numbers, No. 2004-53 & 54, to change the way the Community Reinvestment Act evaluates financial institutions is unacceptable.

Homelessness continues to rise. Affordable low-income housing is hard to find. Local reports here in the Rochester, New York area mirror the disturbing news recorded at the national level regarding the increasing numbers of individuals who are unable to access decent and affordable housing. Recent reports have indicated that homelessness in our community increased 31% over the last two years alone, and in terms of the availability of affordable rental housing, Rochester has ranked as the sixth most needy in the entire USA.

The Community Reinvestment Act is a critical component to our community's affordable housing and community development solutions.

We oppose any changes that would allow thrifts to cease providing investments and services. We urge the OTS to withdraw its proposed rule.

Sincerely,

Joan A. Barr

1160 Morden Blush Lane, Apt G

Webster, NY 14580

Member, Eastman Commons Community Fundraising Team

A not-for-profit charitable organization in Rochester, dedicated to providing affordable supportive housing.