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**From:** Elizabeth Nahas Wilson [enahaswilson@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 28, 2005 3:31 PM  
**To:** Comments, Regs  
**Subject:** 2004-53 Community Reinvestment Act

Dear Madam/Sir,

The implications of your proposed changes to the Community Reinvestment Act have worrisome implications. The low-income citizens of this country deserve more representation and protection from their government, not less. By allowing lending to be weighted more heavily in the CRA calculation, you are undermining the very first and more important steps toward financial independence for the working poor. They must begin by opening bank accounts and they most likely need housing and other subsidized services that require bank investments and not loans. Even with the CRA, it is difficult for many low-income persons to open a bank account and avoid check cashing fees and money-orders. Making it more difficult by allowing banks to provide less services does a disservice to the country you are bound to regulate and protect.

The assumption that banks will regulate themselves and provide the services most needed is fundamentally flawed. The banks will regulate themselves to the services that yield the highest returns. The entire point and success of the CRA was to readjust services to serve need and not only profit. By de-regulating the CRA you only serve the banks pockets and drive the poor into an even more hopeless situation. This is America, the government should ensure that the services are available for people who want to apply themselves and improve their lives. Your role is not to make that harder for us!

The free market system only corrects itself for its own bottom line, not for the health and well-being of US population. It is your job to protect the health and well-being of the US population and provide the counter balance to bottom-line goals that increase the gap between rich and poor every day.

I sincerely hope that you will reconsider your suggested policy changes, and this time with a view to protect the citizens you serve.

Sincerely, Elizabeth Wilson