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**From:** Pshh [pshh@ekns.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2005 2:48 PM  
**To:** Comments, Regs  
**Subject:** Comment on proposed changes to CRA

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) requirements.

I believe your proposal will result in considerably less 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 CRA 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 to low and moderate income communities. At the same time, your proposal would allow thrifts to finance community development of affluent communities, not lower income neighborhoods, in rural areas and areas afflicted by natural disasters. People's Self-Help Housing, Inc.'s work is concentrated in the rural areas of central Appalachia and I do not see any benefit for rural areas without maintaining the requirement for low and moderate income communities. These proposed changes are contrary to the purpose of CRA to combat redlining of low and moderate income communities. 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. Our region already receives very little benefit from CRA and these proposed changes will only assist predatory lenders in our communities by encouraging the responsible lenders to move to more affluent communities, leaving fewer responsible alternatives to predatory lenders.

Please withdraw your proposal. It will have a negative impact within the United States as a whole by limiting the financial options in communities which need it the most.

Sincerely,

Dave Kreher  
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