

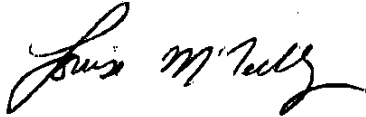
**Louise McNeilly**  
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To: Office of Thrift Supervision  
Fax # 202-906-6518  
Date: January 10, 2005  
Re: No. 2004-53 & 2004-54

I am very concerned about the OTS proposal to weaken CRA requirements. I have direct experience with the importance of CRA regulations from my work raising capital for a community development group and volunteer efforts to lead a neighborhood association in a struggling neighborhood. There is one bank in my neighborhood that is constantly threatening to move out which would be a huge loss to the many elderly, low income and visually impaired people in my neighborhood and the other small businesses in the community. The only way we have been able to keep them in our community is through organizing around CRA regulations.

If the CRA regulations are weakened I will no longer be able to raise capital for affordable housing, small businesses and community facilities for low income neighbors. The financial institutions (and some of them are thrifts) I approach are very forthright that the only reason they are interested in making below market rate loans to underserved communities or serving on our committees or supporting our operations is because of CRA exams. The moment CRA regulations are weakened financial institutions will lose interest in affordable housing, neighborhood revitalization, building assets for low wealth people and community development. These regulations need to be strengthened if we have any hope of improving the lives of disadvantaged people and communities.

If you have any questions, please call me at 518-432-0516. Thank you for your consideration.



Louise McNeilly