

From: paulmary1002@yahoo.com  
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2005 2:10 PM  
To: Comments, Regs; ssiddiqi@ncrc.org  
Subject: RIN 3064-AC50  
Re: No. 2004-53 and 2004-54  
Regulation Comments  
Chief Counsel's Office  
Office of Thrift Supervision  
1700 G Street NW  
Washington, DC 20552

Dear Sir or Madam:

As a socially responsible investor, I am a strong supporter of the Community Reinvestment Act, which has helped combat redlining by lending institutions and provided vitally needed capital to struggling communities.

I urge you to withdraw your proposed changes to CRA regulations, which would seriously weaken the Act by allowing thrifts to obtain CRA credits by financing community development in affluent neighborhoods rather than lower-income neighborhoods, and depriving community organizations of the opportunity to express their concerns in required meetings when two thrifts merge.

Your proposed changes would allow thrifts with more than \$1 billion in assets to pick and choose which community needs they will meet, and would allow large thrifts to eliminate or water down the investment and service tests currently required as part of their CRA exam. The result will be less investment and reduced banking services in lower-income communities. The moral character of a society is much reflected in how it treats the poor and underprivileged. We need to uphold laws that help development of low-income neighborhoods. Such development will not only help the residents of the affected neighborhoods, it will indirectly help society as a whole.

Yours Sincerely,

Mary A. Johnson