
From: Wim-Kees van Hout [wimkees@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Monday, January 24, 2005 12:54 AM

To: Comments, Regs

Subject: 2004-53 Community Reinvestment Act

Please register my concern at proposals to remove CRA requirements for any federally accredited and federally insured institutions. I am the immediate past president of Rebuilding Together Oakland, one of 250 affiliates nationally, dedicated to help low-income (mostly elderly) homeowners to rehabilitate their homes so they can continue to live there in safety, comfort and dignity. Almost 275,000 volunteers nationwide picked up tools last April on National Rebuilding Together day and completed work on over 8,000 homes across the nation.

Banks have played an integral part in the success of the organization, in part prompted (or prodded) into action by CRA requirements. Since I am officer of a bank myself - and have been at 4 financial institutions in the past 8 years - I can attest to the force of the CRA regulations in terms of raising funds, volunteers and boardmembers for this fabulous non-profit.

I strongly urge that the CRA requirements currently in place are not reduced or abandoned. The people we help have led productive, useful lives, have had jobs and raised families, purchased a house - and are now down on their luck or simply (as is the case in California) unable to keep pace with the cost of life for a homeowner. Please ensure these vulnerable, worthy citizens continue to receive the volunteer help they so clearly need and deserve.

Wim-Kees van Hout