

**From:** Shallee T. Page [stpage@mail.maine.edu]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 21, 2005 10:05 AM  
**To:** Comments, Regs  
**Cc:** ssiddiqi@ncrc.org  
**Subject:** 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:

I understand that there are changes proposed (No. 2004-53 and 2004-54) to CRA regulations that would allow large banks with over a billion dollars in investments to opt out of the CRA community investments. It strikes me that this allows large banks to avoid lending to those local groups that need the loans the most. I urge you to withdraw your proposed changes to CRA regulations, since this can't help but lead to injury to low-income and minority neighborhoods. Under the OTS proposal, banks can earn CRA points by giving financing to affluent neighborhoods, while neglecting low- and moderate-income ones, and rural ones. The result will be less investment and reduced banking services in lower-income communities.

This is not the first challenge to the CRA recently, and it is unfortunate that it looks like big money will rule the day to the detriment of our cities.

Yours Sincerely,

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