

# Tejano Center for Community Concerns

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March 15, 2001

Ms. Elaine L. Baker  
Secretary  
Federal Housing Finance Board  
1777 F. Street, N. W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006

Re: Request to Intervene in FHLB of Dallas Membership Petition

Dear Ms. Baker:

On behalf of Tejano Center for Community Concerns in Houston, Texas, we would like to go on record with our support for consideration of the petition filed by the Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas ("Dallas Bank") seeking approval of membership for Washington Mutual Bank, F.A. The Tejano Center for Community Concerns represents a major portion of the Hispanic community and some of the poorest communities in Houston, Texas and provides a quality of life through rental and homeownership for families that otherwise will not experience decent, safe and affordable housing. Our ability to provide such has been largely in part to the support of our efforts by the Federal Home Loan Bank and Bank United.

We understand that with Washington Mutual's acquisition of Bank United that Bank United is no longer permitted to be a member of the Dallas Bank. Washington Mutual has applied to the Dallas Bank to maintain an equivalent membership, and the Dallas Bank has approved this application subject to the approval of the Federal Housing Finance Board. We believe it is in the best interest of the Dallas Bank and the communities it serves for the Finance Board to approve this membership petition.

The Tejano Center for Community Concerns has partnered with Washington Mutual's predecessor and the Dallas bank to promote home ownership in our communities through programs such as the Helping Hands program, and the Affordable Housing Program, which provides principle reduction/down-payment, and closing cost grants. In addition, other Dallas Bank programs have enabled us to develop multi family affordable rental housing. Our mission to serve predominantly Hispanic neighborhoods in Houston, and with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas, we have and continue to help make a difference in the lives of low-income families. We value this partnership and hope that you consider the positive impact that this partnership will have on the lives of many low income families over the years and grant membership to Washington Mutual.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

Richard R. Farias