

From: Burbidge, Heidi [Heidi.Burbidge.bra@ci.boston.ma.us]
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2005 2:04 PM
To: Comments, Regs
Subject: 2004-53 Community Reinvestment Act

To the Office of Thrift Supervision:

I am writing to express my serious concerns that the requirements of the Community Reinvestment Act become loosened. This important program provides financing for programs that serve the neighborhoods of America and help keep democracy alive in our country. It is important that financial institutions be invested in all communities. With banks becoming bigger and bigger, it is even more important that community concerns are not neglected. Financial institutions have a responsibility to the communities where they do business; the Community Reinvestment Act gives them thresholds to measure their commitments to the community to ensure that these responsibilities are addressed.

All federally insured financial institutions should continue to be fully accountable under CRA for making investments and providing services. I also oppose the OTS proposal to consider favorably rural community development activities that do not primarily benefit low-income people or communities.

I would appreciate a response to my comments. Please consider the young boys and girls, the elderly, the disabled and the other low-income Americans who benefit from community reinvestment programs. They are the future of our country and if we cannot offer them hope and opportunity, we are failing as citizens of this great democracy.

Heidi Burbidge
17 Lourdes Avenue
Boston, MA 02130
(617) 918-4306