

From: Jeff Stookey
Subject: CRA Regulations Hearings

Comments:

Submitted on 2010-08-25 14:25
Submitted by anonymous user: [97.115.77.17]

Submitted values are:

Submit your comment letter to bank regulators:
Body (please personalize the bracketed areas to ensure your letter is not overlooked):
My name is Jeff Stookey

Good affordable credit is essential to the health of our nation's neighborhoods. Financial institutions must be held accountable to participate in the real economy by offering quality loans and community investments. Thank you for initiating the process of updating the Community Reinvestment Act.

The past decade has shown how devastating high-cost, predatory credit can be to our nation. Toxic credit that was targeted to low-income and communities of color caused pushed our entire economy to the brink of collapse and has left in its wake devastation in the form of rampant unemployment, faltering state and local budgets miles of foreclosures and abandoned buildings.

I have been careful to move my accounts to small local banking institutions that keep money in my community rather than going out of state to national conglomerate banking headquarters elsewhere.

It is imperative that the banks, many of them the very ones who caused this crisis, repair the damage and continue to do good business in our communities. An updated and modernized Community Reinvestment Act can help.

We need:

* Real Accountability and Fairness for Banks. Banks like Bank of America and Wells Fargo that took down our economy should not receive outstanding ratings. Banks should no longer be allowed to pick which of their areas they are graded on or which parts of their companies get looked at.

* Banks must get failing grades if they discriminate by offering toxic loans, less credit, worse credit or inadequate services to African-American and Latino communities.

* Strengthen the requirements for banks to work with us. If they are not doing their jobs, we will be the first to know. We need to be able to challenge the banks directly to meet our credit needs.

I urge you to take strong action to re-regulate the financial industry and the stock markets. This reform must include reinstating the Glass-Steagall regulations that put up a firewall between banks, insurance companies, and brokerage houses. We must limit the conflicts of interest created when commercial banks are permitted to underwrite stocks or bonds. We must

reinstitute the Bank Holding Company Act to extend the restrictions on banks to include bank holding companies owning two or more banks so they cannot engage in non-banking activity and cannot buy banks in other states. We need to ensure that financial ratings companies are independent and unbiased.

Sincerely,

Jeff Stookey

First Name: Jeff

Last Name: Stookey