

From: Mary Sweet
Subject: CRA Regulations Hearings

Comments:

Submitted on 2010-08-26 17:15
Submitted by anonymous user: [66.25.79.185]

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 Mary Sweet.

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.

These days, after taxpayers bailed out the banks, it is almost impossible for individuals and small business owners to get loans from banks who have still managed to pay their executives unbelievably large bonuses, in spite of all they did to sink the economy.

And those who offer credit cards have been raising interest rates to usurious levels. That is affecting everyone who has a credit card, no matter how well they have managed their credit debt. On time payments of the total balance or even larger than minimum payments mean nothing to these banks. Too big to fail should be broken into smaller, more manageable banks who are also more responsive to community needs. I have moved my money from one of the large banks into a local credit union because I find the service is better and more personal.

There should be a cap on the interest rates that banks can charge for their credit cards. During the savings and loan crash, credit card interest limits were set and many of these savings and loans are still around doing business. The same thing needs to be done to the large banks - interest rates of 27-35% are usurious and should be illegal.

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.

Sincerely,

First Name: Mary
Last Name: Sweet