

From: Thomas T. Grant
Subject: CRA Regulations Hearings

Comments:

My name is Thomas T. Grant

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.

One of the most devastating things for North Carolina has been the take-over of many of the local banks by growing conglomerates. First Union took over many of the local banks, and spread nationwide. Wachovia came along and merged with First Union. Wachovia failed and Wells Fargo took over. We continue to lose our local economy because these conglomerate banks take over, and they don't understand the local businesses, nor do they want to lend to them.

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: Thomas
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