

From: Regina Bennett
Subject: CRA Regulations Hearings

Comments:

My name is Regina Bennett

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.

It saddens me when I drive into the historic section of my community. People used to be able to afford to take care of their homes. They cannot anymore. I see many homes either being sold by the bank or foreclosed. As for myself, I have to rent from homeowners to help them pay their mortgages and because I am not able to afford a home for me and my 18 year old daughter who came to live with me. You banks have made it so difficult for myself and many people I know to qualify for a home loan because of the issues that YOU, the big banks and your fat bonuses have done to my family, friends, me, and my two teeneaged daughters who may not ever be able to afford a home.

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: Regina
Last Name: Bennett