

**Austin Lowes,
Vice Chairman
Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians**

Testimony

**For
Consultation Between
The Tribal Nations
And
Native American Financial Officers Association (NAFOA), in conjunction with the Center of Indian
Country Development (CICD)**

Regarding

**How Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) proposed rulemaking could more effectively address the
investment and credit need of Native Communities (Docket #R-1769 and RIN #7100-AG29)**

My name is Austin Lowes. As the elected Vice Chairman of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians (“the Tribe”), I am submitting testimony on behalf of the Tribe. This Testimony is in response to the Native American Financial Officers Association (NAFOA), in conjunction with the Center of Indian Country Development (CICD) for comment regarding How Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) proposed rulemaking could more effectively address the investment and credit need of Native Communities.

There is a definite need in Indian Country for more affordable lending because there hasn't been enough demand since many low and moderate income tribal members have options through tribal housing. While tribal housing continually experiences problems with shortages of homes, the excess demand doesn't appear to spill over into the commercial lending markets. Is the low demand in the lending markets due to a lack of communication to Indian Country that programs such as these exist or are tribal communities not receiving approved loans because of low to middle income levels which are considered poor credit risks by commercial lenders?

Conclusion:

In conclusion, thank you for giving my Tribe the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Legislative Director, Mike McCoy at MMcCoy@saulttribe.net As always, my Tribe looks forward to working in partnership with the federal government.