

July 30, 2008

Gary. K. Van Meter  
Deputy Director  
Office of Regulatory Policy  
Farm Credit Administration  
1501 Farm Credit Drive  
McLean, VA 22102-5090

Dear Mr. Van Meter:

I am writing to you today as a farmer, businessman, and Baker County, Georgia Commissioner who values the rural American way of life. I support the Farm Credit Administration's proposed rule to enable Farm Credit institutions to make mission-related investments in rural communities in order to address the urgent needs facing rural residents.

In communities like mine, a vibrant rural community is essential. Farmers rely on a communities' infrastructure, from schools to water treatment facilities to municipal support services. Moreover, bringing business to rural areas only makes sense – the majority of farm families today rely on off-farm employment to keep their families' finances in the black.

Over the years, it has become evident that access to capital has hindered our progress. Smaller communities are often unable to access national bond markets, and may incur legal restraints on their ability to raise funds. When you couple this with the fact that in rural areas, the median income, on average, is 25% lower than that of urban areas, and that 95% of the rural areas in the United States are considered persistent poverty communities, it is easy to see what infusing capital into these areas simply makes sense.

I urge you to consider the long-term impact of the Farm Credit Administration's proposed rule to enable Farm Credit institutions to make mission-related investments in rural communities. It is a step in the right direction – providing a safe, consistent, and proven effective method to address the urgent needs we know exist.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



T.E. Moye  
County Commissioner  
Baker County, Georgia