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

RE: Mission-Related and Rural Community Investments

Dear Mr. Van Meter,

U.S. agriculture relies on a vibrant rural economy. In order to thrive, America's rural communities need access to capital that will support new investments and necessary infrastructure improvements.

As you know, agriculture depends on rural communities to support the related businesses and markets critical to their farming success. Equally important is providing off-farm employment to ensure the economic success of many farm families. Unfortunately, rural communities often lag behind metropolitan areas in essential infrastructure, services, facilities, transportation, health care and education. These factors often drive employment and economic opportunities.

The Farm Credit Administration's proposed rule to enable Farm Credit institutions to make mission-related investments in rural communities is a step in the right direction to address this urgent need. This proposal allows those closest to rural areas, the farmer and cooperative owners of Farm Credit institutions, to support their communities by making critically needed investments for the future of rural communities. I support what this proposed rule is striving to accomplish and urge the Farm Credit Administration to move it forward in the regulatory development process.

Thank you for your consideration and concern for rural America.

Sincerely,

Paul Sauer
27679 Nature Road
Royalton, MN 56373