

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

'08 JUL 25 14:15:15

RE: Mission-Related and Rural Community Investments

Dear Mr. Van Meter,

Agriculture in the United States depends upon a vibrant rural economy. To prosper, rural communities in America need better and more reliable access to capital that will support new investments in the rural community facilities and infrastructure improvements necessary for their success.

Agriculture is dependant on rural communities to support businesses and markets that are critical to their farming success and which also provide off-farm employment that is critical for the economic success of many American farm families. Unfortunately, rural communities often lag behind urban areas in essential infrastructure, services and facilities, such as transportation, health care, education and others that if provided would bring employment and economic opportunities to rural areas.

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 the farmer and cooperative owners of Farm Credit institutions, those closest to rural areas, to support their communities by making critically needed investments in the future of those rural communities. I fully support this proposed rule and the policy position it 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,



Timothy K. Anderson
501 Homestead Road
Mankato, MN 56001