July 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:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Mission-Related Investments proposed regulations. I appreciate the realization that there is a tremendous need for capital to enhance the economic vitality of rural America. Farmers and producers are as much dependent on healthy and vibrant rural communities as are such communities dependent on a strong agricultural economy. In order to keep America's rural communities economically sound, it is vital that these communities be able to attract and retain businesses that provide employment, economic opportunities and the services and products necessary to enhance the quality of life for those living in rural America. Thriving businesses and the revenues they generate are critical to affording rural communities the ability to provide essential facilities, infrastructure and services that rural residents need.

I strongly support AgStar and the rest of the Farm Credit System having the authority to work with governmental bodies, commercial banks and others to enable my community and similar communities across the country to finance projects that are designed to provide essential facilities and services to rural residents. As states cutback on the funding that they provide to counties and towns because of budget constraints, it becomes increasingly difficult to secure the necessary capital to meet the needs of the local communities. The System, either independently or working with others, has the financial ability and should have the authority, to provide access to capital for community revitalization projects and other economic development initiatives. Because the Farm Credit System was created to fund the needs of agriculture and rural areas, the System is well-positioned to understand and address the growing challenges facing rural America.

I commend the Farm Credit Administration for its efforts to utilize the resources of AgStar and other Farm Credit System institutions to help meet the challenges that local communities and the producers who rely on those communities face.

Sincerely,