



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:

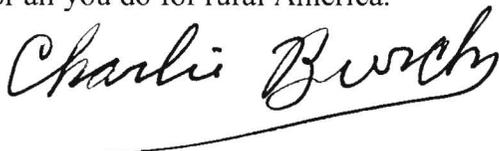
For over 20 years, I have served as a Director of Southwest Georgia Farm Credit, and during that time, I can tell you of the positive impact this Association has had in our agriculture community. During the past three years, we have worked diligently to invest in rural America through the Farm Credit Administration's pilot program on mission related and rural community investments.

Our Association has been actively involved in serving as a lender of record, or participating in financing dental clinics, critical access hospitals, manufacturing facilities and more. For rural communities, this means an investment in jobs and in much-needed community infrastructure. Most importantly, it's an investment in people.

As a farmer my entire life, I can tell you how important it is for agricultural communities to have an overall vibrant economy. In order to thrive, these communities need better and more reliable access to the capital that will support new investments in community facilities and infrastructure improvements.

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. 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 all you do for rural America.

Sincerely, 

Charlie Burch
Vice Chairman