



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:

U.S. agriculture relies on a vibrant rural economy. I am a peanut and cotton farmer who also serves on the boards of Quality Gin and People's Warehouse. As a Director at Southwest Georgia Farm Credit, I am keenly aware of the impact of Mission Related Investments, not only in our own backyard, but across the United States. Unlike any other lender, the Farm Credit System is uniquely positioned to provide a safe source of credit, and ensures that FCS institutions maintain their focus on providing loans to eligible customers by placing strict limits on both the total amount of investments institutions can make, as well as limits on the amount that may be invested in any single business. Of course, all investments must be made in rural areas.

To that end, the accomplishments we have seen have had an impact in the lives of rural Americans:

- Financing of a dental clinic in Cairo, Georgia, where Social Enhancement funds were built into the financing package, providing money for indigent care in the community. Across the board, rural communities have far fewer dentists per 100,000 population than metropolitan areas; adults aged 18 to 64 are twice as likely to have lost all their teeth; rural residents are less likely than their urban counterparts to have dental insurance. Today, this dentist has recruited a partner fresh out of dental school who wants to continue to practice in this small town.
- Financing of a child psychiatric center in Crenshaw County, Alabama. Defined as "underserved" for mental health services, this project also brings 50 jobs to the county, most being filled by area residents. This facility will provide convenient access for residents of Crenshaw County and surrounding communities. Of due note is the fact that this county suffers from a poor high school graduation rate. More than 20% percent of the adult population 25 years and older has less than a ninth grade education as compared to the national average of 6.12%.

These are just two examples of how the most basic infrastructure serves rural residents, including farmers, who also need off-farm employment for their economic success.

I urge your continued support and encourage the Farm Credit Administration to move forward in the regulatory development process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T.E. Allen, III".

T.E. Allen, III
Director