

January 20, 2010

Farm Credit Administration
1501 Farm Credit Drive
McLean, Virginia 22102-5090

Re: Rural Community Investments Proposal

Dear FCA,

I am writing in regards to your proposal for a major expansion titled "Rural Community Investments." I understand this proposal would permit **tax exempt** lenders to extend practically any credit to businesses in virtually any rural community and permit the FCS to make general business loans by negotiating the credits as private bonds. By calling these credits investments instead of loans, the FCS can get around lending constraints in the Farm Credit Act. FCS lenders would be able to finance nonfarm commercial businesses and residential mortgages in addition to essential community facilities, roads, bridges, hotels and other projects in any community of up to 50,000 people.

As a rural resident and community lender of a home town based independent community bank, I am highly opposed to this proposal. The Minnesota FCS lender (AgStar) already offers 30 year fixed rate financing for light manufacturing - nonagricultural businesses, housing, multifamily residential, assisted living facilities, dental practices, etc. This is the prime customer base of community banks that also reach out and assist the community in which they live and work. Similar to the proposed expansion of commercial lending limits for credit unions, this proposal is anti-competitive and will reduce the availability of credit in rural areas as small banks (the ones lending in the communities) leave the market.

I am asking that you please consider the long term effects this new proposal would have on the locally owned and independent banks that meet the various needs of the communities in which they operate and their employees live.

Sincerely,



Vickie Ramsier
12433 Lincoln St. SE
Paris, Ohio 44669

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