



October 7, 2004

Mr. Robert E. Feldman
Executive Secretary
Attention: Comments/Legal ESS
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
550 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20429

Re: RIN Number 3064-AC50

Dear Mr. Feldman:

On behalf of the New Mexico Bankers Association, I am writing to express our support for the FDIC's proposal to raise the threshold for the streamlined small bank CRA examination to \$1 billion without regard to the size of the bank's holding company. This would greatly relieve the regulatory burden imposed on small banks under the current regulation, which are required to meet the standards imposed on the nations' largest \$1 trillion banks. Community banks would still be required to help meet the credit needs of their entire communities and would continue to be so evaluated by their regulator.

We also support the addition of a community development criterion to the small bank examination for larger community banks, but we believe that the FDIC should adopt its original \$500 million threshold without a Community Development (CD) criterion. The new CD criterion should be applied only to banks greater than \$500 million up to \$1 billion.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

John W. Anderson
Executive Vice President