Once upon a time I was a customer for a big chain bank. Then I moved to a smaller community bank. The privileges aren't quite as good, and the locations aren't as numerous, but the satisfaction I get from knowing my business is supporting my area more than makes up for this. As a socially responsible investor, I am a strong supporter of the Community Reinvestment Act, which has helped ensure that people and businesses in underserved communities have access to vitally needed capital.

I thank you for withdrawing your earlier proposal to allow midsize banks to pursue only one type of community development activity — loans, investments, or services — rather than all three.

However, I urge you to withdraw the proposed new changes under which CRA exams would no longer look at how many branches a bank operates in underserved communities, and banks would no longer have to disclose data on how much credit they provide for community development, small farms, and small businesses. Banks must be held accountable for serving struggling communities, and the public must be able to make sure they are meeting their obligations. The transparency provided by required disclosure is essential to ensuring that the CRA remains effective.

Yours Sincerely,

Subir Trivedi