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April 20, 2019

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Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond

Richmond, VA 23261

Dear Federal Reserve Bank Representatives,

On behalf of PeopleFund and the women, veterans, minorities, ex-offenders, and low income entrepreneurs we serve, please accept this letter of support for Business Bank and Trust (BB&T) in consideration of their pending merger with SunTrust. Our work to create economic opportunity for those marginalized by the financial mainstream relies upon the generosity and partnership of financial institutions like BB&T.

The growth of both BB&T and SunTrust represents a unique opportunity to expand economic development and break down barriers so more Americans can access the financial mainstream and obtain their piece of the American Dream.

During our partnership with BB&T, we have lent over \$75 million, provided 96,000 hours of business education and created 4,000 jobs for those who need it most. Financial support from community banks like BB&T, along with volunteer engagement, is critical to the success of our clients.

Your partnership brings small business dreams to life for people like Andrea, who opened a small chocolate shop in a low income area of Dallas so she could work with her daughter and grandaughter. "PeopleFund has helped us in so many ways with answering our businesses questions and helping us with our financial needs." - Andrea Pedraza, Owner and Founder, CocoAndre Chocolatier

We welcome the opportunity to share more with you about the many ways banks like BB&T can expand their community commitment as they merge, grow, and expand their financial footprints. My direct contact information is below and we thank you for your time,



Gary Lindner, President & CEO PeopleFund

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