From: <u>Demetrius McBride</u>
To: <u>Comments</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL MESSAGE] Capital Requirements - RIN: 3064-AF29

**Date:** Tuesday, January 16, 2024 5:14:09 PM

As the Advocacy Chairperson of the Urban League of the River Valley Young Professionals and a longtime member of the Urban League, I have spent the greater part of my years as a young professional fighting for economic prosperity and social justice for black Americans. The Urban League works to increase educational and employment opportunities for African Americans and I personally have overseen programming aimed at educating black entrepreneurs and educating black young professionals about the benefits of first time home ownership. Part of the mission of the Urban League is to enable and empower African-Americans and others in underserved communities to achieve their highest human potential and secure economic self-reliance, parity, power and civil rights. Given my work on this mission and my deep understanding of the issues facing the black community, I had no choice but to make my concerns known about the proposed increase in capital requirements for banks.

Home ownership is widely known to be the best way for all Americans, but particularly black Americans to build wealth, but unfortunately economic and social inequities make the dream of owning a home difficult for black Americans. Sadly, discriminatory housing policies have led to far too many Black Americans being excluded from achieving the American dream of owning a home, building equity, and increasing their wealth and the wealth of their families for generations to come. Because of this, the wealth gap has widened, and over the years this lack of equity has spilled over into all areas of the American economy, making life harder for black Americans. These rule changes could also be costly for predominantly Black municipalities, such as the city I live in, because of the potential limitations in securing funding for community development and important infrastructure projects that would hopefully lessen economic disparities.

It is critical to the success of our country that all Americans have equal access to owning their first home and receiving loans to start and fund small businesses. We have made great strides in this regard over the last few years of the Biden administration so I ask that we not take a step back by potentially decreasing access to funding for the Americans who most need it.

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