



LINCOLN SAVINGS BANK

LSB FINANCIAL

October 22, 2014

Mr. Barry F. Mardock
Deputy Director, Office of Regulatory Policy
Farm Credit Administration
1501 Farm Credit Drive
McLean, VA 22102-5090

Re: Eligible Investments for Farm Credit System Associations and Funding Banks

Dear Mr. Mardock:

Our bank (Lincoln Savings Bank) is very concerned about the Farm Credit Administration's (FCA) regulatory proposal to "modernize" (as you put it) investment purposes for Farm Credit System (FCS) entities.

I am most concerned this proposal, combined with your recent "guidance memorandum" on investments and pilot projects, is not only confusing but backwards. FCA should withdraw the guidance memo until after this regulation is completed. The combination of the guidance memo and this regulation appear aimed at allowing FCA to approve virtually any type of investment. This is an egregious, self-serving power grab on FCA's part.

Strict limitations are needed on FCS lenders' investments. FCS entities are GSEs and should focus on loans, not investments. I am concerned FCA is establishing an approval methodology that allows FCS lenders to label as investments what are in effect loans. Please explain how FCA determines the difference between a bond and a loan in terms of eligible investments.

From what I've seen and read, this is just another way that the Farm Credit System plans to broaden their lending base. Investments??? Or Loans??? I can see where FCS will abuse this program, as they have done on others. What is an eligible investment, compared to a loan?

If FCA does intend to approve these types of "investments" then you did not listen to the thousands of letters from bankers opposing your 2008 proposed rule. The rule states "no investment is ineligible if approved by FCA." Congress did not grant you an "anything goes" approval authority in the law that supersedes the Act's lending authorities.

All illegal investments now in FCS portfolios should be divested within six months. Investment portfolios should not exceed 10 percent of loan volumes, even if such volumes decline. Please withdraw the guidance memo and this proposal and reissue this proposal for comment after answering the questions raised above. FCA should not approve investments that exceed to cope of the Act's lending parameters.

Sincerely,

Dana Uhlenhopp, EVP
Lincoln Savings Bank