



July 5, 2006

*Building
houses,
building
hope*

Federal Housing Finance Board
1625 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Attention: Public Comments
Excess Stock Restrictions and Retained Earnings Requirements for
The Federal Home Loan Banks
#3069-AB30

I am writing to express my concern over the impact of the proposed capital rule on the FHLBank of Cincinnati and its ability to support its housing mission. I represent Habitat for Humanity, Lima Area, Inc., a nonprofit organization providing housing services to low income persons in Lima, Ohio. These are individuals and families who would otherwise never be able to afford to become homeowners through conventional bank loans. My organization has partnered with the FHLBank to provide grants to as many as 24 of the houses that we have built over the 15 years of our existence.

FHLBank funding is often the critical first level of financial commitment to our projects. It helps leverage other sources of public and private funding and bring together the necessary partners and leaders for effective development. As the highly successful Affordable Housing Program is based on a 10 percent set-aside of annual net profits, we all have a stake in the success and profitability of the FHLBank.

The FHLBank has demonstrated its commitment to affordable housing over and above its mandated Affordable Housing Program. The proposed regulation would seem likely to shrink the size of the FHLBank, reduce its profitability, increase costs to its members, all to no apparent benefit. Why penalize the FHLBank member lenders, housing partners and our at-risk clients? With fewer state and federal housing dollars available for targeted affordable housing, I strongly urge you to reconsider this restrictive regulation that will result in lower FHLBank profits and, by extension, fewer residents gaining access to decent housing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lavon J. Welty".

Lavon J. Welty
Executive Director

119 N Cole St
Lima, OH 45805-2719
(419) 222-4937
Fax: (419) 229-2617
www.habitatlima.org