Thurlow, Julie [jthurlow@readingcoop.com] From:

Thursday, May 04, 2006 12:07 PM Sent:

Comments, Regulation Cc: Patti, Tony; Thurlow, Julie

Subject: RIN 1506-AA85; ANPR - Provision of Banking Services to MSB's

RE: RIN1506-AA85

To:

To Whom It May Concern:

To be quite frank, in this post 9/11 era, the banking industry has become the financial police for all account holders. The cost of this responsibility is significant in both direct costs and in employee hours. When a federal agency needs additional resources, the taxpayers fund this cost. At present, the cost for AML, BSA and CIP has been funded by each bank's bottomline.

To maintain accounts for MSB's require increased costs and deteriorates earnings even further. These are not consumer accounts, therefore, we can opt not to allow MSB's to be our customers. In event an existing customer adds this service, the bank can opt to close the account. No additional rulemaking will reduce the operational burden, alleviate the customer risk or lessen the regulatory scrutiny for these accounts.

I would suggest that MSB's be allowed to open accounts at the Federal Home Loan Banks and let them take the responsibility for monitoring these high risk customers as the cost/benefit is not there for community banks. We have no motivation to seek out these businesses as our customer.

Respectfully,

Julieann M. Thurlow, EVP Reading Co-operative Bank 180 Haven Street Reading, MA 01867 781-942-5000, ext 108 781-944-1401 facsimile jthurlow@readingcoop.com

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