

May 10, 2010

The Honorable John Kerry  
218 Russell Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sam Brownback  
303 Hart Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Scott Brown  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Kerry, Brownback and Brown:

I am writing to thank you for your efforts to ensure the continuation of the federal thrift charter as a vibrant, viable and effective option for the organization, administration and regulation of financial institutions in the United States.

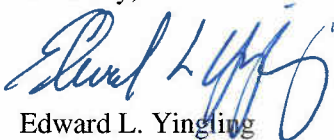
The thrift charter is an important and valuable one which gives special focus to the development of housing and community development expertise. Thrift institutions by law must concentrate a portion of their lending efforts toward these areas. At a time when the housing sector of our economy is struggling to regain a solid foundation, the thrift charter is needed more than ever.

The ABA raised strong opposition to the Administration's proposal to eliminate the thrift charter. The bill passed by the Senate Banking Committee, S. 3127, only grandfathered existing thrifts. Though this was an improvement over the Administration proposal, the charter would be frozen, without authority for new chartering, growth or innovation necessary to maintain its future value.

Your amendment preserves a viable thrift charter option for both mutual and stock companies, and encourages new formation of healthy and vibrant thrifts to serve community needs.

In doing so, your amendment provides banks, and the customers and communities they serve, an important set of tools for promoting sustainable growth and development. Thank you for hearing our concerns and for your efforts to maintain a viable federal thrift charter.

Sincerely,



Edward L. Yingling