



Ronald A. Rosenfeld, Chairman  
Federal Housing Finance Board  
1625 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20006-4001

January 8, 2008

Dear Chairman Rosenfeld,

As Chairman of the Community Bankers Association of Illinois, the largest Illinois banking trade association with over 490 Illinois-chartered banks, I am writing you concerning the proposed merger between the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago (FHLB-C) and the Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas (FHLB-D).

First let me say that we are strong supporters of the Federal Home Loan Bank system. The FHLB-C has been a vital source of liquidity for Illinois banks. In addition, the Mortgage Partnership Program has been extremely popular and successful for our member banks. Furthermore, the open lines of communication between the staff of the FHLB-C and our association have been extremely helpful to us and are sincerely appreciated.

While I understand that there is no requirement to do so, I am respectfully requesting that any proposed merger between FHLB-C and another Federal Home Loan Bank be put to the shareholders for approval. Our association has no pre-disposition on the merits of such a merger. However, we do have questions regarding the benefits of a merger to shareholding banks, both financially and in regard to the future delivery of services. It is our belief that subjecting a proposed merger to a vote of the shareholder banks would elicit a thorough explanation of the merits of such a merger and provide us with a solid basis on which to form a judgment.

In general, we remain strong supporters of the Federal Home Loan Bank system and stand ready to contribute to its ongoing success within Illinois and in Washington. We look forward to enjoying a continuing positive and mutually beneficial relationship with you, the FHFB and the FHLB-C. I look forward to your reply and I am always available to discuss this or any matter of concern at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Kent Siltman  
Chairman  
Community Bankers Association of Illinois

cc: J. Mikesell Thomas, FHLB-C  
David Feldhouse, FHLB-C