

**Statement**  
**Jill Long Thompson, Board Chair**  
**Farm Credit Administration Board Meeting**  
**November 14, 2013**

For America to be strong, the rural economy must be strong. In order to thrive, our rural communities must be able to provide good-paying jobs and access to capital, both of which require investments in the local economies. Just this month the USDA Economic Research Service released data showing a net loss in the rural population in 2012. It is important that this kind of contraction does not become a trend.

As we all know, the Farm Credit System exists for the purpose of providing “for an adequate and flexible flow of money into rural areas.” We also know this mission has contributed to the economic strength of our country.

My husband and I live on our family farm in Indiana, and I have spent much of my professional career working to find ways to strengthen the rural economy. I support System institutions investing capital in sound projects that will simultaneously strengthen and diversify their asset base and grow the rural economy. Today we withdraw the community investments Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that was published in 2008. Additionally, we will conclude in approximately one year each pilot program the FCA Board approved after 2004. By taking these actions, we are moving forward in clarifying the process by which institutions can invest capital under existing regulations in ways that benefit their communities, as well as their borrower/shareholders.

I believe the action we are taking today is prudent and will protect the safety and soundness of the System. Of equal importance, it will allow for capital management by the Farm Credit System institutions to include investments that benefit the rural economy.