

ARKANSAS



APPRAISER LICENSING & CERTIFICATION BOARD

2725 Cantrell Rd. ■ Suite 202
Little Rock, Arkansas 72202

September 26, 2000

Mr. Thomas E. Watson, Jr.
Appraisal Subcommittee, Chairman
2000 "K" Street, NW, Suite 310
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Mr. Watson,

The Arkansas Appraiser Licensing and Certification Board acknowledges receipt of the June 19, 2000 correspondence concerning the Appraisal Subcommittee's review of this Board. It is encouraging to know that the audit concluded that Arkansas' program was functioning, in most respects, in a manner consistent with Title XI of FIRREA. Obviously, we are pleased to accept that statement as this Board's authority to continue licensing and supervising the appraisers in Arkansas. Since the Board did not meet to consider your findings until September 21, we failed to respond within the requested 60 days. At this meeting, the Board reviewed your findings and charted a course for remediation of those areas needing attention.

In reference to the *Continuing Education* carryover issue, which the Subcommittee deemed to be inconsistent with Appraisal Qualifications Board criteria, I must point out that in August 1997 the Subcommittee's review of this Board found that our continuing education renewal cycle was inconsistent with AQB guidelines. In October 1997, this Board, in a zealous effort to comply with the Subcommittee's findings, revised its rules in such a way as to encourage appraisers in Arkansas to maximize their involvement in more in-depth educational offerings by allowing fourteen hours of CE carryover for one year. The Board believed this to be reasonable, particularly since other states had some form of Continuing Education carryover.

Subsequent to concluding the time consuming process of public rule making, this Board received word in December of 1997 that the Subcommittee's finding was in error and that the AQB had concluded that this Board's previous policy of permitting a continuing education renewal cycle different from the license renewal cycle was acceptable.

This Board has addressed the continuing education carryover issue since that time and has consistently held that the allowing no more than fourteen hours of continuing education carryover for one year has the same result as having a two-year renewal cycle. Now, in the year 2000, the

Subcommittee advises that the action this Board took in response to the 1997 review is inconsistent with AQB's interpretation and must be changed again.

This Board reluctantly addressed this issue at its meeting on September 21 and directed its staff to begin the process of amending the rules and developing a proposed rule change to address the Subcommittee's concerns. This Board adopted the following proposed language that will replace the second paragraph of Section VIII-B, if adopted:

"Each licensee or certificate holder shall have completed during the two year period, prior to renewal of their license or certification, in an even numbered year, (i.e. 2002, 2004, etc.) a minimum of twenty-eight hours of real estate appraisal instruction approved for continuing education credit by the Board. "

This rule will not adversely impact those appraisers who have, in good faith, taken courses that resulted in limited amounts of continuing education carryover but will allow sufficient time for following through with the rule making process and marketing the new rule.


Although this Board has yet to experience a problem in this area, the second issue raised by the Subcommittee concerns the *Temporary Practice Permit*. As in the past, the Board is sensitive to the Subcommittee's findings and will endeavor to remedy this concern. At the September 21 meeting, the Board proposed the following language that will be inserted in Section VI-B after the first sentence, if adopted:

"Appraisers holding a valid Temporary Practice Permit may, upon making written request to the Board, be granted an extension of no more than six months from the permit's date of expiration "

The public rule making process is time consuming and consists of the Attorney General's review, Public Notice, Public Hearing, and Legislative Council approval before the Board can finally adopt and implement. In the meantime, we ask for your patience and understanding, as this process will take time. This Board is working to resolve those issues that the Subcommittee has deemed inconsistent with AQB and ASC guidelines.

We trust that this response to the Subcommittee's concerns will be sufficient to remove any clouds of doubt that may be hovering over this Board's desire to be in full compliance with Title XI. If you have any additional questions regarding this Board's interpretation or response to your letter of June 19, please do not hesitate to give us a call.

Yours truly,


Jack Larrison
Chairman