



TEXAS APPRAISER LICENSING AND CERTIFICATION BOARD

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February 14, 2003

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Mr. Steven D. Fritts
Chairman
Appraisal Subcommittee
Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council
2000 K St., NW., Suite 310
Washington, DC 20006



Re: Review Letter Dated January 7, 2003

Dear Mr. Fritts:

Thank you and your staff for the timely written response regarding the recent review of the Texas Appraiser Licensing and Certification Board (TALCB) program. We commend the thoroughness and professionalism that Dennis R. Greene, Jr., and Kathryn Gearheard exhibited in performing the TALCB review. We appreciate that the Appraisal Subcommittee (ASC) recognizes that the TALCB overall is functioning effectively and in a manner consistent with Title XI, FIRREA.

The TALCB has carefully reviewed and considered the findings and recommendations in your letter:

• Temporary Practice Restrictions.

While the TALCB does not meet the letter of the ASC Policy Statement 5 concerning Temporary Practice, it does meet the intent, that is, a non-burdensome issuance and extension of the registration. It should be noted that during FY-2001, FY-2002, and the first four months of FY-2003, of the 435 individuals receiving Non-Resident Temporary Practice Registrations, only two (2) requested 150 day extension past the original 60 days. Since the extension request can be made by fax (the one page form is included in the registration), and is automatically granted, this cannot be considered "burdensome." We will, however, attempt to have legislative changes made to our statute during the biennial 78th Texas Legislature which began on January 14, 2003.

• Complaint Investigation and Resolution.

The Board is acutely aware of the marked increase in the number of complaints received, the increasing backlog, and our limited investigation resources. The TALCB has requested an additional Investigator as well as a clerical position dedicated to Enforce-

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ment in our Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR) for FY 2004-2005. The Board also requested additional finding for investigator training, travel, and resources. The TALCB indicated that it was willing to increase fees to cover the additional appropriations. With an extremely tight financial outlook for the State, additional appropriations appear unlikely. Your review letter will add support to our requests.

On January 23, 2003, the Governor-Lt. Governor-House Speakers proposed a 7% reduction to total FY-2003 expenditures. On January 28, 2003, the Legislative Budget Board requested plans from all state agencies for operating with a 12.5% reduction in the available funding for FY-2004 and FY-2005. These reductions cast serious doubt on the ability of the TALCB to successfully carry out its responsibilities and necessary functions in a timely and efficient manner, including the deterioration of complaint resolution process.

We appreciate the ASC's review of the Texas program and the report of the findings and recommendations. Your observations and guidance will help us make the TALCB more effective and efficient in carrying out its responsibilities. We intend to have an outstanding program in Texas.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



V. W. (Wayne) Mayo
Chair

Copy: Ben Henson, ASC Executive Director
Renil C. Linér, TALCB, Commissioner