

**SIS** *The Bank  
That Listens*  
SANFORD INSTITUTION FOR SAVINGS

December 29, 2008

Financial Accounting Standards Board  
301 Merritt 7  
P.O. Box 5116  
Norwalk, CT 06856-5116



LETTER OF COMMENT NO. 190

Via email: [director@fasb.org](mailto:director@fasb.org)

Re: Proposed FSP EITF 99-20-a

Dear Director:

Sanford Institution for Savings is a Mutual Savings Bank with deep community roots. We have a substantial investment portfolio and we have concerns with the present interpretation of OTTI and appreciate the recent focus of FASB on this issue.

We support the FASB's Proposed FASB FSP EITF 99-20-a, Amendments to the Impairment and Interest Income Measurement Guidance of EITF Issue No. 99-20, which would amend EITF Issue No. 99-20 (Recognition of Interest Income and Impairment on Purchased Beneficial Interests and Beneficial Interests That Continue to Be Held by a Transferor in Secured Financial Assets). We urge you to issue the proposal in final form, to be effective for December 31, 2008 financial reporting.

We support the proposal as a first step toward improving the application of OTTI, and we appreciate the FASB's recent decision to examine additional problems relating to OTTI. We agree with the letter from the American Bankers Association to the FASB on the proposal, dated December 28, 2008, which supports the proposal and requests that additional OTTI concerns be addressed for year-end 2008 reporting. OTTI has been controversial for many years, and we believe it would be more meaningful to use a model based on credit impairment rather than on market values. Because of the significance of the problems with the application of OTTI in the current market environment, we believe changes to these practices are critical for year-end 2008 financial reporting.

Thank you for your attention to these matters and for considering our views.

Sincerely,

*Mark T. Mickeriz*

Mark T. Mickeriz  
President/CEO