



RECEIVED
ES 125252
2008 JUL 22 PM 11:52
CHAIRMAN'S
CORRESPONDENCE UNIT

July 16, 2008

Hon. Christopher Cox
Chairman
Securities and Exchange Commission
100 F Street, NE
Washington, DC 20549

Dear Chairman Cox:

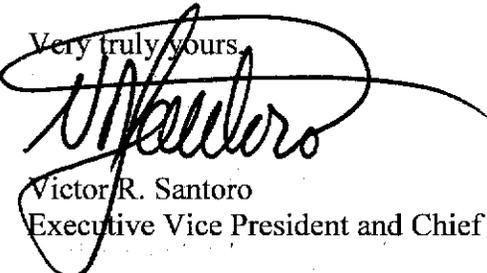
I read with great interest today of the Commission's action to immediately curb improper short selling in the stocks of several financial firms. Thank you for taking this action and I hope that it goes a long way in curbing abuses.

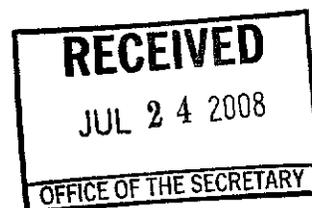
I also read that the Commission is considering extending the curb to stocks of other publicly traded companies and I wholeheartedly support such an extension.

Extending the curb to other stocks is important. My company is a publicly traded bank holding company. The bank we own, Pacific Western Bank, is a community bank whose stockholders include many local residents of the communities our Bank serves. These stockholders have suffered significant declines in the value of their stockholdings because of short sellers, some of whom, I suspect, entered into improper trades. Accordingly, I strongly urge you and the other Commissioners to extend the short selling curb to all public companies, especially public banking organizations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very truly yours,


Victor R. Santoro
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer



cc: Hon. Paul S. Atkins, Commissioner
Hon. Kathleen L. Casey, Commissioner
Hon. Elise B. Walter, Commissioner