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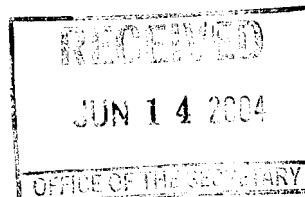
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VIA FACSIMILE AND U.S. MAIL

The Honorable William H. Donaldson, Chairman
Securities and Exchange Commission
450 Fifth Street NW
Washington, DC 20549



RE: File number: S7-10-04

Dear Chairman Donaldson:

The Securities and Exchange Commission has issued, for public comment, a proposal that would allow institutions to opt out of the existing trade-through rule. Both as an individual investor and as a representative of a corporation whose shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange, I support the current trade-through rule and encourage you to insure that its provisions are not weakened.

Investors are the primary beneficiaries of this rule, because it assures that they always receive the best price for their transactions. In addition, for those companies like ours that are listed on the New York Stock Exchange, transaction costs are reduced and volatility is minimized. These results benefit corporations and shareholders alike.

Weakening the trade-through rule would result in additional expenses for all investors, large and small. I urge you to support continuing use of the existing trade-through rule.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thomas A. Nicholson, Jr.".

Thomas A. Nicholson, Jr.
Executive Vice President
BB&T Investor Relations