

Comment #9

*Sent via e-mail to AccuracyPilotStudy@ftc.gov*

December 16, 2005

Federal Trade Commission/Office of the Secretary  
Room H-159 (Annex Y)  
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20580

RE: Accuracy Pilot Study: Paperwork Comment

To Whom It May Concern:

The American Financial Services Association (“AFSA”<sup>\*</sup>) submits this comment letter in response to the “Notice of a Pilot Study to Aid Federal Trade Commission in Conducting a Study of the Accuracy and Completeness of Consumer Reports Pursuant to Section 319 of the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003 ( 69 Fed. Reg. 61675; October 20, 2004.) AFSA appreciates this opportunity to comment on the Notice of this Pilot Study

AFSA supports the Commission’s decision to initiate the pilot study. This is a reasonable first step into a large and complex subject.

Additionally, we applaud the Commission’s decision not to attempt to draw statistical conclusions from the pilot study. Obviously, no such conclusions could be drawn from a sample size of 35, especially in light of the possibility, identified by the Commission, that the population might be deliberately adjusted toward lower-score consumers. The Commission is taking the right approach toward this limited-purpose study.

Our ability to provide answers to the Commission’s specific questions is difficult to evaluate *a priori*. However, the Commission’s approach to the pilot study appears to us plausible, in an atmosphere of constrained time and resources and imperfect information.

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\* Founded in 1916, the American Financial Services Association (AFSA) is the trade association for approximately 360 non-traditional market-funded providers of financial services to consumers and small businesses. AFSA members include Diversified Financial Services Companies, Automotive Finance Companies, Consumer Finance Companies, and Credit Card Issuers in the U.S. with outstanding receivables of over \$200 billion. These consumer credit providers account for 15% to 20% of all U.S. consumer credit.

In conclusion, AFSA looks forward to reviewing the results of the pilot study, and to commenting on any proposed conclusions that the Commission might draw and on proposed methodology of future, more comprehensive studies on this subject.

We appreciate the opportunity to respond to the Notice. If you have any questions about this letter, please contact the undersigned at (202) 466-8606.

Sincerely,

**ROBERT E. MCKEW**

Robert McKew  
Senior Vice President and General Counsel  
American Financial Services Association