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**Joint Release**

**Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System  
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation  
National Credit Union Administration  
Office of the Comptroller of the Currency**

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For Immediate Release

August 5, 2011

**Agencies Issue Guidance on Federal Debt**

Earlier today, Standard & Poor's rating agency lowered the long-term rating of the U.S. government and federal agencies from AAA to AA+. With regard to this action, the federal banking agencies are providing the following guidance to banks, savings associations, credit unions, and bank and savings and loan holding companies (collectively, banking organizations).

For risk-based capital purposes, the risk weights for Treasury securities and other securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government, government agencies, and government-sponsored entities will not change. The treatment of Treasury securities and other securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government, government agencies, and government-sponsored entities under other federal banking agency regulations, including, for example, the Federal Reserve Board's Regulation W, will also be unaffected.

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**Media Contacts:**

Federal Reserve  
FDIC  
NCUA  
OCC

Susan Stawick	(202) 452-2955
David Barr	(202) 898-6992
David Small	(703) 518-6336
Bryan Hubbard	(202) 874-5307

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