

**RIDGEWOOD
SAVINGS BANK** 
New York's Largest Mutual Savings Bank

November 10, 2008

Mr. Robert E. Feldman
Executive Secretary
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
550 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20429

71-02 Forest Avenue
Ridgewood, New York 11385
(718) 240-4800

Re: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation – Deposit Assessments
RIN 3064-AD35

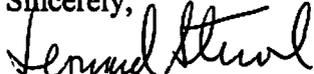
Dear Mr. Feldman:

Ridgewood Savings Bank (“Bank”) is a mutual savings bank chartered in New York State and has been in business since 1921. The Bank maintains 36 service branches and provides banking services to over 300,000 individuals and businesses in the New York City metropolitan area. With over \$4 billion in assets, the Bank is ranked as the largest and most highly capitalized mutual savings bank in New York State and the second largest in the country. The Bank has always been and continues to be a safe and sound institution that emphasizes prudent risk management in order to protect and service our constituents: our customers, our communities and our employees.

The Bank understands that because the fund reserve ratio has fallen below 1.15% and is expected to remain below 1.15%, the FDIC is required to implement a restoration plan to restore the reserve ratio to 1.15% within five years. However, the Bank is concerned that the proposed increase of 7 basis points in the Assessment Rate would place an immediate and significant financial pressure on all insured institutions, including Ridgewood Savings Bank. Therefore, we would request that the Assessment Rate be increased at a slower pace to soften the immediate and significant financial burden to all insured institutions. Since the FDIC has five years to restore the Reserve Ratio to 1.15%, the smaller increase to the Assessment Rate for the upcoming year would likely not pose a significant risk to the Deposit Insurance Fund.

Ridgewood Savings Bank fully supports changes to the risk-based assessment system that would include increasing premiums for institutions that rely on excessive amounts of brokered deposits to fuel rapid growth and increasing premiums for excessive use of secured liabilities while lowering premiums for smaller institutions with very high capital levels. Although we understand that the burden of replenishing the Deposit Insurance Fund falls on all insured institutions, we feel that most of the burden should be placed on those institutions that continue to pursue risky business models. Therefore, we would request that more be done in rewarding those safe and sound institutions, like Ridgewood Savings Bank, by placing even more emphasis on CAMELS ratings and Tier 1 Leverage Ratio in computing an institution’s Assessment Rate.

Sincerely,



Leonard Stekol, CPA
Vice President & Treasurer

We Take Banking Personally
Member FDIC