
From: Gwen Bertone [mailto:gwenbertone@fidelityhomestead.com]

Sent: Monday, March 09, 2009 5:02 PM

To: Comments

Subject: FDIC Assessment

The decision by the FDIC board to raise current premiums and add a special emergency 20 basis point assessment, to be collected September 30, 2009 will hurt community banking and will restrict our activities such as building new branches, hiring additional staff, pay increases for existing staff, etc. We have always run a conservative institution that is now being called to pay the sins of those who didn't.

The extreme frustration felt by this decision, and the ongoing uncertainty of other decisions that may be forthcoming by federal authorities, has caused great anxiety among bankers in Louisiana and across the country. It is estimated that the 20 basis point assessment would cost Louisiana banks and thrifts \$84 million, thereby significantly reducing the amount of capital available for lending at a time when lending is critical for economic stabilization.

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