



BANK™

April 1, 2009

Mr. Robert Feldman  
Executive Secretary  
FDIC  
550 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, D.C.

Attention: Comments

Dear Mr. Feldman:

Hawthorn Bank of Jefferson City, MO appreciates the opportunity to comment on the FDIC proposal to impose a special assessment of 20 basis points on June 30<sup>th</sup> 2009.

Hawthorn has just over 1 billion in deposits and would therefore be hit with a special assessment of \$2 million to be paid on 9-30-09. We believe the large one time special assessment is excessive and should be significantly reduced and spread out over a longer time period. We ask for this relief as we are already experiencing a doubling of the base FDIC assessment over that of 2008.

Our parent, Hawthorn Bancshares, Inc. is a participant in the Treasury CPP program and we are striving to provide loans to our customers and to deploy additional funds to benefit the communities in our market area. The FDIC emergency special assessment is a hindrance to this lending goal as the payment of the large assessment reduces our liquidity.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment on the special assessment and hope that a less onerous assessment scheme can be designed.

Sincerely,

James E. Smith  
Chairman & Chief Executive Officer