
From: Karin West [mailto:kwest@fcnbanks.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 07, 2009 12:10 PM
To: Comments
Cc: Scott Perkins; Paul Perkins
Subject: Assessments - Interim Rule - RIN 3064-AD35. Assessment

Ladies and Gentlemen:

My name is Karin and I am a teller for First Community National Bank, a community bank in rural Missouri. I have read and heard about your plans of a special assessment to raise funds for the FDIC since they are expecting more turmoil in the banking industry. However, I must insist that other alternatives be considered and examined before assessing healthy financial institutions these "fines". My bank, as many other strong banks, has exercised sound business practices to consistently raise deposit levels, and to keep "bad" loans at a minimum - not just over this past year, but over past decades. Management has implemented changes to prepare for a continuing downturn in the economy but to keep severe impacts on employees at a minimum. However, I fear that more drastic measures would have to be taken in order to counteract such a large and unexpected expense such as the assessment and that ultimately staffing would be severely impacted. With unemployment numbers rising, why should sound banking institutions have to let people go and contribute to the economic downturn when such institutions are the backbone of their industry and not costing the tax-payers any "bail-out" money? Our bank also strongly supports our community with donations. In 2008, FCNB donated the funds for the new middle school gym floor which kept our property taxes down and thus benefited every tax payer of our town with extra cash in their pockets. Banks such as First Community Bank are the ones that keep lending responsibly even now - but we do need the resources to do so - taking away cash will reduce our lending ability since our small community can only bring in so much in new deposits.

Please consider alternatives to this assessment proposal that will not punish small and healthy community banks so severely that it will only hurt the very industry you are supposed to help.

Respectfully,

Karin West
Teller
Steelville, Missouri