

March 31, 2009

Mr. Robert E. Feldman  
Executive Secretary  
Attention: Comments  
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation  
550 17<sup>th</sup> Street.  
Washington, DC 20429



Merrimack  
Valley Hospice

*Ask for us by name*

Dear Mr. Feldman:

As one of the largest non-profit home health care agencies in Massachusetts, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the FDIC's proposal to impose a special assessment on all banks in Massachusetts. I have serious concerns about this proposal which I believe will impact Pentucket Bank's ability to serve the community negatively impacting our local community.

I understand that the Deposit Insurance Fund (DIF) must remain strong and secure during these challenging economic times in order to maintain public confidence in the insurance system. However, the proposed insurance premiums will impose a significant financial burden on Pentucket Bank at a time when they are already dealing with rising unemployment and a deepening recession. Pentucket Bank plays an important role in the local community and is well known and respected for providing a variety of financial and human resources to many non-profit organizations in this region. In fact, Pentucket Bank provided generous financial support toward the construction costs of the new Merrimack Valley Hospice House and encouraged other local banks and individuals to support this important initiative as well. I have serious concerns that the high cost of the proposed assessment will reduce Pentucket Bank's ability to provide charitable support to local non-profits like mine that are already struggling with decreases in donations and higher costs for providing services.

Pentucket Bank operates in a prudent and conservative manner and has never made sub-prime loans or engaged in other questionable practices. I believe Pentucket Bank will be unfairly penalized by the FDIC's proposal and strongly encourage the FDIC to consider alternatives that may reduce the burden of rebuilding the fund while still ensuring that it has the resources it needs to address ongoing problems with the system. I am confident that we can ensure that the deposit insurance system remains secure without placing such a large burden on local banks.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed rule.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joan Stygles Hull". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Joan Stygles Hull RN, MBA  
President/CEO

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