

**From:** Bill Hughes [mailto:bhughes@pattersonbank.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 03, 2009 9:49 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** assessment

This latest move by FDIC may be the blow that kills the economy. It is the community bank that holds the banking industry together by financing the small businessman, the homeowner, the consumer. Over the last several months as the regional and mega banks stopped lending, more and more customers were forced down to the community banks. Our loans have increased to the point that our capital and liquidity are stressed and the demand still remains.

Less than 60% of Georgia banks ended 2008 with a profit. Many of these banks held to that profit by a thread while we saw the Fed continue to make prime rate cut after prime rate cut, destroying our profit margins. Community banks did not create this problem and could have been a major part of its solution. I say could have been because this latest assessment by FDIC may just force community banks to join the 40% of our group that were not profitable. Get your shortfall funding from the bailout not from "holding up at gunpoint" our community banking system.

WILLIAM E HUGHES JR  
PRESIDENT/CEO  
THE PATTERSON BANK  
930 MEMORIAL DRIVE  
WAYCROSS, GA 31501  
912-490-1010  
912-490-1456 FAX

