

From: Jamie Karl [mailto:jkarl@nechamber.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2009 3:54 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Comment on FDIC Assessment



March 12, 2009

1320 Lincoln Mall
Lincoln, NE 68509

Robert E. Feldman, Executive Secretary
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
550 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20429

Re: Assessments, RIN 3064-AD35

Dear Mr. Feldman:

It has been brought to the attention of the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry that the FDIC is reconsidering its 20-basis-point special assessment on banks to replenish the federal deposit-insurance fund. Although we are encouraged by this news, we urge you to consider alternatives that will lessen the burden on Nebraska's banking community.

The State Chamber is Nebraska's largest business association. Our association represents approximately 2,000 employers and 500,000 employees, and has proudly served as the voice of Nebraska's business community for nearly a century. To grow their businesses, our members rely on their local Nebraska banks. Requiring these banks to shoulder a disproportionate assessment burden would not only threaten their viability, but also the viability of the businesses that depend on them for essential capital.

We certainly understand the need for a sound federal deposit insurance system. However, the emergency fees being proposed by the FDIC would come at a time when the sector can least afford them. Banks are already facing regular fee increases in addition to the special assessment fee. Therefore, we believe the FDIC must change the structure of its assessment and its approach so that Nebraska's banks are able to retain needed capital for increased lending, which will help spur further economic expansion.

Again, we urge the FDIC to consider alternatives to the special assessment that would be levied on Nebraska's banking community. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Barry L. Kennedy, President
Nebraska Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Cc:

U.S. Senator E. Benjamin Nelson, Nebraska
U.S. Senator Mike Johanns, Nebraska
U.S. Representative Jeff Fortenberry, Nebraska
U.S. Representative Lee Terry, Nebraska
U.S. Representative Adrian Smith, Nebraska