



March 9, 2009

Sheila Bair, Chairman  
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation  
3501 North Fairfax Drive  
Arlington, VA 22226

Re: RIN # 3064-AD35

Dear Chairman Bair,

With all due respect, the decision to substantially increase the premium assessments on a one-time basis, or, for that matter, on an ongoing basis is putting continued pressure on an industry that is already mired deep in crisis. The impact of this decision will only begin to surface sometime down the road in the form of “Unintended Consequences”. I believe this will take the healthy community bank segment of the industry and gradually weaken it to the “State of Crisis” level the “To Big To Fail” banking segment is currently experiencing. The Main Street community bank sector did not participate in the high-risk practices that led to the current economic crisis, but are now being asked to pay for the mistakes of the Greedy Incompetent Wall Street crowd.

In the days and months ahead, the law of “Unintended Consequences” will undoubtedly rear its ugly head and push an untold number of profitable banks into the negative earnings territory, result in widespread layoffs, overburden existing bank infrastructures, adversely impact CAMELS ratings, and only further damp lending.

Additionally, “Who would want to invest in the banking segment when the uncertainty of special assessments can adversely impact the earnings of a respective bank or its viability as an on-going concern.”

Granted, we all must chip-in and pay our fair share in support of the national cause, but these latest actions, I believe, fail the “Reasonableness” test. Being that the “To Big To Fail Banks” were the largest contributors to the economic wreck, let me suggest that the FDIC change the structure of the assessment base and be permitted to levy a systemic risk premium on the “To Big To Fail Banks” that have helped deplete the FDIC insurance fund.

The majority of our nation’s more than 7,085 community banks remain safe, sound and secure. They are well-capitalized, well-managed and continue to serve their customers and their communities throughout this great country of ours. Let’s keep it that way.

Sincerely,

Frank D. Di Tomaso, Jr.  
Vice Chairman  
Bank of Santa Clarita