

From: Shropshire Ronald [mailto:SHROPSHIRER@bankofchoice.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2009 6:25 PM
To: Comments
Subject: special assessment, RIN 3064-AD35

March 25, 2009

Robert E. Feldman
Executive Secretary
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
550 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 204429

Re: proposed FDIC special assessment

Dear Mr. Feldman:

As President of a 113 year old nationally chartered community bank, I feel compelled to voice my opinion on the interim rule for the levy of a one time 20 basis point special assessment. Our institution has diligently managed its credit function, conformed to all federal regulations, assumed a philanthropic role in our communities and promptly paid our share of premiums to the FDIC insurance fund. We accept these principals and regulations as the proper way to do business and to earn the respect and trust of our customers. The interim rule for the levy of a special assessment seems, to this banker, an inequitable solution.

A special assessment will severely impact the profitability of this and many other traditional banking institutions. Our earnings for the previous year (2008) were above peer and our goal is to continue to increase our capital levels to assure our financial viability. This goal is best achieved through retained earnings.

Additional premiums cannot be leveraged to support new lending and in fact will reduce lending; we believe we have an obligation to continue to support the credit needs of our consumer and small business customers.

I urge you to consider two alternatives to the proposed special assessment:

- Increase the FDIC credit line with the U.S. Treasury and use it
- Explore the possibility of borrowing from the industry in the form of convertible debt

Sincerely,

Ronald T. Shropshire
President
Great Lakes Bank, N.A.
Blue Island, IL