

From: dwright@intermountainbank.com [<mailto:dwright@intermountainbank.com>]
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2010 12:23 PM
To: Comments
Subject: FDIC Proposed Guidance on Overdraft Coverage

Douglas Wright
801 W Riverside, Suite 400
Spokane, WA 99201

September 27, 2010

Comments to FDIC

Dear Comments to FDIC:

By electronic delivery to:
OverdraftComments@fdic.gov

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
550 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20429-9990

Re: Overdraft Payment Supervisory Guidance, FIL-47-2010, August 11, 2010

Dear Sir or Madame:

My institution, Panhandle State Bank, is a \$1 billion institution headquartered in north Idaho. We serve rural and smaller urban markets in Idaho, Eastern Washington and Oregon.

I strongly oppose the FDIC's proposed guidance (FIL-47-2010) that addresses overdraft coverage programs. Simply put now is not the time to introduce further regulation targeted at overdraft coverage products. My bank has just implemented new requirements under Regulation DD (Truth in Savings) and Regulation E (Electronic Fund Transfers) at great expense and manpower. Having to rework our bank's deposit products and to accommodate a regulatory moving target does not help my bank serve its customers.

This is particularly true given the significant additional regulatory burden already coming our way as a result of Frank-Dodd. The sheer volume of regulatory changes will clearly increase compliance costs at a time when earnings are already stressed. Heavily impacting our non-interest revenue sources at the same time will further restrict capital and our ability to serve our customers and expand lending in our communities.

Further, any additional rules should be the result of an inter-agency effort to ensure consistency and fairness in its application for both banks and the customers we serve.

Lastly, I fear that this proposal will ultimately do a great disservice to my customers, many of which appreciate the assurances that accidental overdraft coverage offers in preventing a bill being returned unpaid or a merchant-imposed fee being levied. The alternative for many of our customers would expose them to fees far greater than those imposed by my bank.

My bank does not manipulate transaction processing to generate more fees and higher revenue. My bank is accountable to its community and its success is dependent on a mutually beneficially relationship with customers. If we engaged in "price-gouging" tactics, we COULD NOT do business in our community.

If the FDIC proceeds with adoption of the proposed guidance, please consider the following:

To specifically exempt ad hoc programs from this guidance. Ad hoc overdraft coverage is an extension of my bank's customer service and is based on our knowledge of the individual customer. Including ad hoc overdraft coverage in this guidance would damage the relationship between my bank and its customers.

The elimination of the requirement that banks monitor programs for excessive or chronic use (six overdrafts in a rolling twelve month period) and then contact the customer (in person or via telephone) to discuss less costly alternatives. This mandate would be extremely burdensome and operationally unworkable for my bank and would result in an excessive number of calls, causing us to either discontinue our overdraft coverage program, or to close the customer's account and return all payments.

Many of our customers value these overdraft services and are well aware of the costs and alternatives available to them.

To eliminate the requirement to set daily thresholds on overdraft fees. We price this fee to manage the associated risk and as a deterrent to encourage consumers to engage in more financially-responsible practices. We often do provide advice and give customers discounts on these fees as part of our normal customer relations, but a requirement for a daily limit flies in the face of free-marketing pricing.

To allow banks to charge a fee for returning items paid by check or ACH. Processing return items represent expense and employee attention and should not be provided free of charge. Merchants and others are allowed to cover expenses resulting from returned checks; it seems particularly unfair to restrict this practice at banks.

I urge the FDIC to carefully consider this measure to ensure that the guidance does not impede my bank's ability to provide overdraft coverage services to my customers. If we are forced to abandon or significantly alter these services due to regulatory burden, the result could lead more consumers into becoming unbanked or relying on other products such as prepaid debit cards and check cashing services, which have higher fees and foster unsound financial practices.

Sincerely,
Douglas M. Wright
509-363-2635