

Closing Remarks

CHAIRMAN GRUENBERG: I promise you I will be mercifully brief. I would note that I saw most of you here this morning at around 8 o'clock, and I think I see most of you here now at 5. So at a minimum let me thank you for your commitment and persistence.

And I think it's reflective of the growing engagement in the United States around this issue.

I was struck -- this has been a 10-year journey for us and when we started out I was made aware of the rather extensive international efforts around economic inclusion, oftentimes in countries with large majorities of their population literally outside of the financial mainstream. So it was understandable why there would be nationally led efforts to expand access to the banking system.

In the United States fortunately we are in a different posture. We have most of our population engaged in the financial system in a constructive way.

But the reality is we still have substantial portions of our population that are not.

And we've really spent these last 10 years building a foundation of information and strategic thinking and initiatives to begin to make an impact on this issue.

I think we are seeing some of the fruits of those efforts demonstrated today in the discussions by our panelists, by your presence and participation.

And as I said this morning this is a matter that goes to the core mission of the FDIC.

We have a deep institutional commitment to expanding access to the banking system to everyone who lives in this country.

We think it's what the FDIC is about and we're -- I want to thank Andrea for her kind comments -- playing the role of convener, facilitator, and supporter seems to me to be a very natural and constructive role for us to play.

And as Mark indicated if you have thoughts as to what more we can do, ways we can be helpful to you in your efforts please let us know.

Let me again thank you all for being here and we will continue this work. Thank you all very much.

(Applause.)

(Whereupon, the above entitled matter went off the record at 5:04 p.m.)