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Robert E. Feldman, Executive Secretary  
Attention: Comments/Legal ESS  
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation  
550 17th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20429

*E-mail: comments@FDIC.gov*

Re: FDIC RIN 3064-AE89

Dear Mr. Feldman:

The following comments are submitted on behalf of the Independent Bankers Association of Texas ("IBAT"), a trade association representing nearly 400 independent, community banks domiciled in Texas that control more than \$180 billion dollars in total assets.

Section 202 of the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act amends section 29 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to except a capped amount of reciprocal deposits from treatment as brokered deposits for certain insured depository institutions. In addition, section 202 ensures that the interest rate restrictions in section 29 remain applicable to any deposit, including reciprocal deposits, whether or not they fall under the limited exception.


Under the proposal, 'well-capitalized' and 'well-rated' banks—as defined in the proposal—are not required to treat reciprocal deposits as brokered deposits up to the lesser of 20 percent of their respective total liabilities or \$5 billion. For assessment purposes, 'brokered reciprocal deposits' will continue to be excluded from the 'brokered deposit ratio' for small banks (less than \$10 billion in total assets) that are 'well-capitalized' and 'well-rated' under 2009 rulemaking. Banks that are not 'well-capitalized' and 'well-rated' also may exclude reciprocal deposits from their brokered deposits under a 'special cap.'

This proposal will make plenary conforming amendments to the FDIC assessments regulations to make those consistent with the statutory definition of reciprocal deposits.

Our member banks look forward to the agency's plans to seek additional comments later this year on its overall brokered deposit and rate cap regulations.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments on behalf of Texas community bankers who wholeheartedly support these amendments.

Sincerely,

  
Christopher L. Williston, CAE  
President and CEO