

From: Michelle Chacon  
Sent: Wednesday, March 04, 2009 11:21 AM  
To: Comments  
Subject: Special Assessment

I completely disagree to the proposal of a special assessment imposed upon all banks. This plan should not be approved! Imposing this assessment will hinder the ability of small community banks to continue to function and provide sound practices and services. How can we afford to be competitive in this economic situation when we are forced to find the funds to pay the 'special assessment' fees?

In September 2008, it was devastating to have your employer take a huge hit due to the Freddie Mac/Fannie Mae situation. But our small community bank withheld the huge blow and was still able to maintain above par performance. It was a huge confidence boost to the employees and to several customers to see how our senior officers and the entire bank faced this situation. Their dedication and loyalty went as far as some of the senior officers and board members giving up their end of the year bonuses so that their hard working employees could have theirs. It was clear to our senior officers that their employees shouldn't have to suffer for the mistakes of others. I've never heard of a high paid CEO of some Wall Street bank give up their billion dollar bonuses for their employees or for their bank.

With that said, this new 'special assessment' will also be a devastating blow to our community bank. How can we be held accountable to pay such a large amount in such a short amount of time? Are these fees the same across the board for all small community banks? Is there some scale that determines what percentage each bank is held accountable for? Are banks that have a higher percentage of risky lending practices or whom did not follow the rules going to have to pay a higher amount of 'special assessment' fees?

With all the information I have been provided, I am still unable to see how the scales are balanced. Time and time again it's the small community banks that are taking all the financial blows in this economic situation. Where is the common sense in the situation and the justice? Why are smaller banks being thrown into the same category as the bigger, Wall Street firms who committed the wrong doings? We should be complimented on our superb ability to maintain our conservative practices and financial responsibility. But instead we are assessed a huge sum of money which is due to be paid in less then 6 months.

Again, I completely disagree with the special assessment plan and hope the response you receive from our institution and other outraged banks will change the outcome of this proposal. Our community bank has worked hard, from our senior officers to the tellers who offer you a warm greeting as you walk through our doors, to provide outstanding service to both the employees and the community its serves. Please explain, how we are to continue to keep our heads above water, when the FDIC wants to weigh us down with a \$600,000 burden?

Michelle Chacon  
Customer Service Representative  
First National Bank in Staunton  
Bethalto Banking Center