

From: Linda Mauro
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 4:15 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Assessment rates

Dear Ms. Bair:

Thank you for allowing comment on the FDIC's action February 27, 2009, to increase assessment rates and impose a 20 basis point special assessment due . I also understand there may be further special assessments. Frankly, I find this unconscionable to negatively impact the financial health and viability of community banks to resolve the systemic risk created by a few large financial conglomerates.

An example, my bank, Steuben Trust Company, is a \$330 million NYS chartered community bank in rural upstate New York. The impact of the new rates (for highest rated banks) and special assessment is estimated to cost 25% of 2009 net earnings! The impact on community banks' employees, communities, and shareholders is devastating.

I strongly encourage the FDIC Board to re-evaluate and seek more reasonable and fair solutions to replenishment of the insurance fund. Overburdening Main Street will only deepen and compound the economic problems.

Thank you

Respectfully,

Linda Mauro
Steuben Trust Company
Compliance & BSA Officer