From: Fred Bauer [mailto:fbauer@farmersbank-weld.com]
Sent: Monday, March 09, 2009 1:17 PM
To: Comments; adam_jones@markudall.senate.gov; layth_elhassani@bennet.senate.gov
Cc: BARBARA WALKER
Subject: Assessments, RIN 3064-AD35, increasing assessments for Community Banks

Once again, we as Community banks are getting "mixed messages" from our regulators. We have been told to lend more to get the economy jump started. So what is their latest incentive to do so? Increase our costs through higher FDIC assessments, thus lowering our ability to reach their new definition of "well-capitalized" (the old 10% is now 12%) and take away from our ability to lend more. Go figure.

I have read articles that suggest the impact on Community Bank's earnings, if the increase in assessments and the one time assessment in September are allowed to stand, could range in a drop in earnings for the banks of 20-50%. Boy, that's going to do great things for main street economies.

If billions of dollars can be given to those very "Wall Street" banks, who through their greed, have created the problems the whole country is dealing with, then why in the world can't some of the TARP money be used to increase the FDIC's insurance fund? Or, because they are not "to big to fail", the Community Banks are undeserving.

Please give thought to other alternatives.