
From: Adrienne Valerio [mailto:avalerio@fnbstaunton.com]

Sent: Wednesday, March 04, 2009 12:40 PM

To: Comments

Cc: glotter@fnbstaunton.com

Subject: Opinion of Assessment

To Whom It May Concern:

I did not have much experience in the banking industry until becoming employed a little less than a year ago by First National Bank in Staunton, IL, but I have since learned a great deal in regards to how important our small community bank is in this troubled economy. From my first day with FNB, I have been made to feel as though I am part of a family, not just an employee. I greatly enjoy my job and what I do and have come to take great pride in saying that I work for First National Bank. When information surrounding the first bail out was released, our Bank President called a meeting to voice his concerns and opinions about the current situation and to express words of comfort and encouragement to the employees. Until this meeting, I did not understand the magnitude of the situation. Mr. Ziglar's words were honest, straight-forward and from the heart when he spoke about how strong our community bank is and how we are going to make it through this situation. As an employee and family member of FNB, I felt proud to have such a leader, to work for such a strong community bank, and to work along side fellow employees who had worked so hard to ensure the success of this bank. We have been strong for 75 years and will continue to be in the future thanks to the dedication of our people and the commitment to ethical and responsible banking practices that has served as the foundation for our success! However, amid all of the positive feelings I have towards my bank, I was angered at the lack of accountability and responsibility that is being shown by other, much larger banks, which, in part, led to the current status of the economy. These larger banks are facing very difficult financial problems and possible collapse largely due to their irresponsible banking practices. Instead of these banks being punished for their wrong doings, they are being rewarded with millions, if not billions of dollars, while the smaller banks like ours are having to deal with the backlash, anger and lack of trust from our customers due to the status of the banking industry, the economy, and the actions of the Government. The general public has lost confidence in its' Government and the banking industry in general all because money is being thrown around and given to the people and businesses that started this whole mess in the first place. As if all of the other Government actions have not damaged the reputation of banking enough and as though everyone is not strapped for cash already, it is now being discussed to impose another fee on banks. My bank has done its job successfully for 75 years now, and instead of being rewarded for that, we are now having to pay for the wrong doings of others. As a matter of fact, we are celebrating our 75th year in 2009. Normally, this would be a time of celebration, but instead employees were informed that there may not be any raises this year. As an employee, of course that is not the best news to hear, but I am thankful to have a job and am more than willing to make that sacrifice for the overall good and success of our bank. Again, as an employee of a smaller bank, I am appalled that we are being expected to pay for the actions of other banks that put themselves in the situations they are facing, while not being rewarded ourselves for conducting business properly. I might feel differently had these struggling banks faced some situation that was out of their control. However, I feel that greed, unethical practices and reputation are the reasons that these other banks find themselves in the situations they are facing. Had they done the right thing, like our bank and other small banks all throughout the United States, we may have been able to avoid the current economic dilemma. As a US Citizen, I am outraged that once again my money is being thrown around to save those who should be left to pay for their mistakes, not rewarded for them. If this new assessment is passed, yet another burden will be placed on those banks that have done nothing wrong. What ever happened to accountability for one's actions? I do not and cannot understand why citizens and banks all over the United States are being forced to pay for the irresponsibility and lack of accountability of others yet again. We have already paid our taxes, paid our bills, we go to work every day, we turned the other cheek during the first bail out...and now we

are being expected to pay again! When is someone going to say enough is enough? Why wasn't the first bail out monitored more closely to see how the money was being spent? All of these questions and no real answers! If our bank is forced to pay this assessment that is being discussed, I do not know what will happen. We already know that there will be no raises, jobs may be lost, hours may be cut, and why? I do not understand the logic behind all of this. How will imposing another assessment on banks help the situation when money has already been given? If this assessment is passed, you will be hurting the only banks that are still successful. These smaller banks that you are imposing fees on are the same banks that have worked hard to ensure their success not only for the communities they serve, but also for the employees that rely on them for their own wellbeing. Please think about this...with the stroke of a pen, you may cripple or even destroy the smaller banks that are the backbone of communities all throughout the United States, which may in turn worsen the overall economic situation. Thank you for your time!

Adrienne Valerio
Bookkeeping - VISA/ATM
First National Bank in Staunton
115 S Elm St, PO Box 59
Staunton, IL 62088-0059
618-635-2234 ext. 282