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**From:** Mark Finstad [mailto:mark@ultimabank.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 04, 2009 11:09 AM  
**To:** Comments  
**Cc:** Arnie Skeie; Dawn Crane; Peggy Ystenes; Ron Lemer; Bruce Meade  
**Subject:** FDIC special 20 bts Assessment

Dear FDIC Board Members,

After reading Chairman Bair's letter to bank CEOs dated March 2, 2009, I feel compelled to respond.

We hear every day in the news media that banks are receiving government assistance but are not lending. I can assure you that, despite the economic climate, our lending activity in northwest Minnesota remains quite active. As always, our credit decisions are deliberate and based on sound lending practices. That being said, we continue to help farmers, small business people and consumers every day with the credit they need to maintain and grow their businesses and households.

The 20 bt assessment, on top of considerably higher base premiums and surcharges already implemented by the FDIC, will be counter productive in achieving the stated goals of the current Washington Administration - that being to stimulate more lending activity. As noted above, we never stopped lending.

I want you to understand the impact your recommendations are having on our community bank. We are an \$88 Million bank with two rural Minnesota town branches and one loan production office in the regional center of Bemidji. Combined, established and proposed FDIC assessments will total about \$300,000 for our institution. Our earnings have been strong but are already being impacted by deteriorating credit quality and compressed margins.

Our government can't have it both ways. Either we work together to maintain and support lending or we take measures to suppress it. I recognize the need for the FDIC to remain a stable force in insuring depositors, however, temporary assistance from the Treasury, to be paid back by the banks over time as the economy recovers, is a better choice than the level of assessments proposed.

Please reconsider the special assessment and work with us to maintain the stable source of credit that community banks have and will continue to provide the American people.

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