

From: Dennis O. Kutach  
Sent: Wednesday, March 04, 2009 4:18 PM  
To: Comments  
Subject: Assessment

As a community banker for 37 years, it is hard to swallow the special assessment that you plan to implement. Our bank has been through some difficult times in the past and have learned from our experience. Our Board responded and made the tough decisions necessary to see that our bank survived. We continue to operate our bank in a safe and sound manner and plan to do that for years to come.

At the same time, we could see the writing on the wall when the big banks consolidated and entered into all types of business ventures. Allowing the "too big to fail" banks put us at a disadvantage in many ways yet we continue to serve our community and remain profitable. We did not become greedy and try to make exotic loans for quick profit even though we lost many loans to the large mortgage institutions. Our customers wanted to know why we couldn't make loans with no down payments or closing costs.

Even though we could see the coming disaster in the real estate market, we are just a small fish in a big pond and couldn't do anything about it. That was hard enough to swallow and now we have to pay the price for the mistakes of the big fish. Instead of being rewarded for being conservative and conscientious bankers, we are being penalized.

When will it ever end? Community banks have and will continue to be the backbone of America. This assessment should be restructured so that community banks like ours are not penalized for doing the right thing.

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