
From: Welter, Jim [mailto:JWelter@Fidelitybnk.com]

Sent: Wednesday, March 04, 2009 2:43 PM

To: Comments

Subject: FDIC Assessment

Dear Madam Chairperson,

You have invited comment regarding the increase in the FDIC assessment so here goes: I am a small town banker in Medford, Wisconsin. We have been hard hit by numerous layoffs in the wood harvesting and window manufacturing industries. We also have "troubled or toxic assets" on our balance sheet. As we set aside more reserves for **loan loss allocation**, as is required, it has been increasingly difficult to make a profit and contribute to our capital. Now we, the small community banks are being asked to bail out our larger and riskier brethren at a rate and pace that's just too high.

You claim that it would be discriminatory to assess a higher rate on the larger, more risk susceptible banks. One can reasonably argue that we are the ones being discriminated against because we are not asking for TARP funds.

Community Banks are small businesses and should be treated as such. We'll pay our share, but set the bar a little lower for small community banks, perhaps a 5 basis point increase with a one-time special assessment not to exceed 10 basis points. The level at which we are being asked to just too high! Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,
Jim Welter