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To: Comments
Cc: info@icba.org
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Why should the Community Banks of this Country pay for the sins of the "Wall Street" or big banks like Citi, Washington Mutual (which by the way was an insurance company at one time – then got into the banking business) and others?

Community Banks as a whole have worked hard for years to provide solid financial services for their customers. Collectively we have not participated in sub-prime lending because we new it was not a good move for the customer and it was not a sound business decision for our investors. Although we have watched many others pounce on the opportunity to take advantage of those who do not understand the products they were being force fed in the name of greed, we did not participate, but are still being punished.

Most community banks cannot afford the increase in FDIC premiums. Our Net Income is so thin already because of increased competition from the "big banks" and this increase will force many of these institutions to cut services and increase fees to our customers who are already feeling the effects of our current economic situation.

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