



MASON NATIONAL BANK

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GEORGE BRANNIES
Chairman

March 5, 2009

Sheila C. Bair
Chairman
FDIC
550 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Ms. Bair,

It is time for a two or three tier assessment system to level the playing field for small and community banks.

Large "too big to fail" banks have de facto 100% coverage while paying insurance on a fraction of their liabilities. Community banks pay insurance coverage on 100% of our deposits yet have limits on our depositors coverage.

It is truly unconscionable to me that the FDIC would assess deposit coverage on the small banks while the greed and mismanagement of the large institutions get subsidized. Your 20 basis point hit to all Texas banks will raise approximately 1 billion. In 08 Merrill alone paid out 3.8 billion in bonuses to executives. Where is your boards sense of responsibility and fairness.

We have a Secretary of the Treasury who is a known and admitted tax cheat and now you are stealing our hard earned money to bail out the greedy crooks that have raped their banks. This is unbelievable to this small town, small time country banker who for the last 37 years of my career has tried to do what is right for my bank and community.

Yours very truly,


George Brannies
Chairman