

From: Mike Mahler [mailto:mmahler@first-federal.com]
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To: Comments
Subject: Special Assessment

I am the CEO of a \$250.0 million publically traded bank in Northern Michigan. The troubles our Bank faces operating in Michigan are considerable. Adding an additional special assessment on top of our increased FDIC assessment is only making the problem worse for banks (particularly small banks). We chose not to seek TARP capital because we believe we have enough Capital to help us through this economic crisis. We could have pursued the TARP capital but felt the associated costs were too great and those costs would place an undue burden on our shareholders and customers by having to seek ways to offset the related expenses. I speak for myself and our Board of Directors when I say that this is a mistake to levee this special assessment on the Banks that have acted responsibly to support our communities and our shareholders to make up for those that have not.

Respectfully submitted,

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