

Dear Sirs:

What are you thinking? The one time special assessment will take approximately 20% of a FULL YEARS NET PROFIT. Are you trying to shut down the whole financial system? Or, is this a way to nationalize all Banks like a 3rd world nation would do?

Have you thought of the trickle down effect? (Yes, it's a Regan term) We will pay less Income Tax which means less money to the Federal Government. We will not be able to hire new people and will possibly have to lay some off. How does that help the economy? We are told that we need to expand and spend money to make the economy grow. How can we spend if you take away our money to reward big banks and fat cats that knowingly and willingly made bad loans?

This is my 32nd year in banking and I am all for sharing the burden but this assessment is [a] yoke that the smaller oxen cannot bear. I feel sure that there are smaller banks that this heavy burden will push under water. With the economy and spreads so low, how can the small banks withstand such a blow? We small town banks did not cause this mess nor did we benefit from any of the risky dealings that the big banks got into. Why should we have to pay such a burdensome penalty for something we are innocent of doing?

I think that the bailouts have gone to the executives and not to the customers in the form of new loans. I would like to add that the executives of these failing institutions got large raises and/or handsome bonuses. For What? I would have resigned in disgrace and retired to my mansion on the Hamptons or Martha's Vineyard. Perhaps these executives should put some money back into their big banks and then you could assess them for more money. This way the penalty would be fair. In 1984 our bank had problems and we had to come up with capital out of our own pockets. The FDIC did not assess other banks to help us out. Perhaps Senators and Congressmen could pay 20% of their annual salary to help out? I can just hear the cries, wailing and gnashing of teeth now.

It appears, as always, the rich get richer and are rewarded for their misdeeds.

In closing this assessment is very unfair and burdensome on the banks that are running like a bank should be.

Jake Caraway

Vice President

Vice Chairman of the Board

First National Bank

Granbury, TX

Locally owned and operated since 1887