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**Sent:** Tuesday, March 03, 2009 11:56 AM

**To:** Comments

**Cc:** Ben Wassinger (E-mail); Bud Rasmussen; Vince Dugan; Pam Price; Gary Hedman (E-mail); Tom Gdowski

**Subject:** FDIC ASSESSEMENT

To Whom it may concern:

I was concerned and disappointed to hear of the FDIC special assessment of 20 + basis points to replenish the insurance fund. The timing of this assessment couldn't possibly come at a worse time for rural community banks like the Equitable Bank of Grand Island Nebraska of which I am a director. Even though Equitable sits in the heart of the country we have been hit by the financial tsunami caused by poor lending and management practices of public institutions such as Bank of America, Citi Bank, etc.

This assessment will cripple community banks ongoing struggle to maintain profitability. While I believe we do need a strong FDIC for public confidence, this assessment will actually have a damaging effect on public confidence as community banks will have to take cost cutting steps including job cuts to offset the increase in expense. It is necessary to re-capitalize the insurance fund, but if you don't give Main Street banks time to strengthen their balance sheets and allow local lending to continue to grow you will potentially break the back of the the only financial institutions, Community banks, that can pull the system out of this hole.

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