

From: Laurie McClellan [mailto:LMcClellan@consumersbank.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 12:21 PM
To: Comments
Subject: special assessment

Re: Proposed Special Assessment

Dear Ms. Bair,

As a community banker I am greatly disappointed with the proposed rule to assess all banks equally to restore the Deposit Insurance Fund. The 20-Basis Point Special Assessment will impact Consumers National Bank especially hard, since we have a large percentage of core deposits. Unlike the larger financial institutions, community banks rely on the deposits of local customers as their largest funding source.

According to the February 25, 2009, *American Banker*, "Four large institutions accounted for half of the total loss," yet we are being assessed at the same level. Consumers is a well-capitalized bank that did not accept TARP funds. The bank has experienced loan and deposit growth over the last year, meeting the needs of our **local** communities. We did not participate in the high risk lending that precipitated this crisis.

Consumers National Bank was founded in 1965 by a group of local businessmen that wanted to serve the local community. My father was one of these men. I take great pride in the way Consumers has survived adversity in the past and has grown to a successful financial institution. This bank had only \$40,000,000 in assets when I joined the Board in 1987 and we now have \$240,000,000.

During an especially difficult time for our bank, we experienced issues that threatened our independence. Throughout that time I was able to look back on a rich heritage of strong beliefs that this bank would prevail through tough times and come out on top and we did. Now, I am fearful that this bank can no longer control our future. The decisions being made by Washington are impacting us in a way I could never have imagined.

Please consider a modification of the proposed assessment that considers the disproportional burden you are placing on the community banks.

Respectfully,
Laurie McClellan
Chairman of the Board
Hard copy to follow.

Laurie McClellan, Chairman of the Board
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