

As a Regional President of a successful community bank, I am greatly disturbed by the proposal of a special assessment on the entire banking industry by the FDIC.

I understand the position of banks in the United States, and I also understand most of these problems were not created by independent community banks that still adhere to traditional banking principles. Community banks are the banks that main street and hometown folks have depended on for many years in a deposit/lending capacity, but also as contributors and leaders in our communities. The special assessment will bring an undue and unfair burden on independent community banks and will in turn effect the whole citizenry of the communities we serve.

I think you know that most independent community banks did not participate in the sub-prime lending fiasco that triggered the economic downturn. Like most community banks, we are still lending money following the conservative philosophy of lending to customers with a good history with our bank, good credit, and an ability to repay. We were profitable last year and have not taken any government funds. Most community banks are in this same position.

Main Street is still relatively solid, and we would like it to remain in that position. We intend to do our part to assist in economic recovery in the communities we serve. I respectfully request that community banks not be handcuffed by any assessments to be applied to all banks, instead of only to those who participated in highly leveraged activities that lead to the economic conditions the nation in now under.

Your consideration is greatly appreciated,

Ben Ragan, Jr.  
Regional President  
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