

November 24, 2009

Mr. Robert E. Feldman, Executive Secretary
Attention: Comments
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
550 17th Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20429

RE: Proposed Guidance – Correspondent Concentration Risk

Dear Mr. Feldman:

This letter is being submitted as a response to the request for comment on the proposed guidance addressing correspondent concentration risk. United Security Bank is a community bank with approximately \$40 million in assets in the Fulton, MO area. For a number of reasons we rely heavily on the services and support provided to us by our bankers' bank and other correspondent providers. These relationships are critical to our daily operations that unnecessarily disruptions to them would severely hurt our ability to effectively and efficiently serve our customers.

United Security bank does support the concept of effectively monitoring and managing risk related to correspondent bank relationships. For many years the terms of Regulation F has successfully guided us in this effort. A 25% limitation will create a hardship for our organization. We encourage you to consider a 50% threshold if both parties are "well capitalized" as defined by Regulation F. Suddenly, this doesn't seem to be good enough and we are now being confronted with another wave of excessive and complex regulatory burdens.

As a matter of common practice many community banks, including our own from time to time buy or sell loan participations through their correspondent bank. This practice is similar in nature to the large shared credit arrangements that exist between the largest (some now even have too big to fail status) banks in the country. We use the participation process as a way to enhance and sometimes diversity our loan portfolios. The proposed guidance implies that these participations would be included in calculations used to determine gross credit exposure to our correspondent. Since we approved and execute these transactions independently from our correspondent on an arms length basis and the credit exposure is to the borrower and not our correspondent

bank we do not understand why or how you justify including them in the calculation. We urge you to remove the loan participation language from the calculation or somehow clarify it.

We believe that the guidance is excessive and unnecessarily complex. The risk assessment process should encourage an appropriate balance of sound intuitive decision making without relying exclusively on rigid quantitative measures. Our bank has been able to successfully manage multiple correspondent relationships for years without this additional burden.

United Security Bank appreciates the opportunity to respond and hopes that you consider our comments before issuing your final guidance

Sincerely,

Steve Segelhorst

Steve Segelhorst
Chief Financial Officer
United Security Bank