

**From:** John Herring [mailto:jherring@libertybellbank.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 03, 2009 4:34 PM  
**To:** Comments  
**Subject:** special assessment is unfair to community banks

Dear Ms. Blair,

The FDIC special assessment planned for September of this year is fundamentally and grossly unfair to smaller community-based banking institutions. We did not participate in sub-prime mortgages. We hold no bad investments. We simply do our best to support the communities in which we operate. Yet we are punished, and there is no more appropriate word for it than punished, to compensate the system for the inadequacies if not downright incompetence of those institutions deemed too big to fail, as well as many of those who were supposed to be regulating their activities. This across-the-board assessment creates and reinforces the wrong impression among customers, namely that this is a problem created by ALL banks, which is simply not true. In reality community banks like ours had absolutely nothing to do with the mess we find ourselves in today. Do you realize that this special assessment, on its own, could easily be the difference for some banks between profitability and a losing year? This increased premium should be risk-based and applied to those institutions that created the problem.

I have worked in community banking for 25+ years, and never have I seen such a gross injustice. Assess these penalties against those who deserve them, and those who broke the rules, not the community based banking organizations who least deserve it, who can also least afford to pay them, and who continue to do our best to serve those customers consistently being failed by those larger organizations.

Thank you.

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