

From: Melissa Street [mailto:Melissa.Street@tristarbank.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2009 5:13 PM
To: Comments
Subject: Assessments, RIN 3064-AD35

In this time of economic turmoil, the community banking industry has continued to thrive and provide much needed services to its customers. We are considered a well capitalized, common sense lender that wants to continue to meet the needs of the community, however, the proposal of the 20-basis point special assessment will significantly hinder our ability to do so. Our bank has not been the recipient of TARP funds, and unlike the large banks that will be able to use taxpayer funds to pay this assessment, we, along with our customers will bear the cost. This is an unfair tactic that will penalize our community financial institution to the extent that it will hamper lending opportunities and weaken the most stable core of the banking industry, the community bank.

There are several alternative methods that have been suggested, and I sincerely hope all will be considered. At the very least would be the ability to amortize any assessment over a period of years rather than immediate recognition. The wrong approach to this assessment and the heavy burden of immediate recognition will surely increase the potential for additional bank failures.

Community banks such as mine DID NOT participate in the risky practices that has led to the economic crisis at hand, yet we are being penalized by having to pay for it on top of our regular assessments that are more than double of last year. I urge you to please consider the full ramifications of this issue and find a different, more reasonable and fair solution.

Sincerely,

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