
From: Earl Harding [mailto:eharding@palmettobank.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2009 9:03 AM
To: Comments
Subject: RIN 3064-AD35 FDIC assessment

Dear Sirs,

I am a community banker in South Carolina. I am writing to express my concern over the pending 20 basis point FDIC assessment. Our industry is facing one of its toughest challenges of the past 60 years. Most of our challenges have been brought about by excessive leverage both by the larger financial organizations and also by the general population via unregulated mortgage brokers. Earnings and capital will be very difficult to come by in the 2009 fiscal year. As a community banker we did not participate in the practices that are now the root cause of much of our country's ills.

The proposed 20 basis point assessment would at this time be very detrimental to our industry. We are seeking capital to replace losses sustained in the traditionally stable real estate industry and liquidity and the availability of funds to our clients is becoming critical. By imposing this assessment it will have the opposite of the desired impact. Please do not impose this assessment at this juncture.

Sincerely,

Earle

Earle T. Harding
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