

From: lrowe@unionbankofmena.com [mailto:lrowe@unionbankofmena.com]  
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2010 4:48 PM  
To: Comments  
Subject: FDIC Proposed Guidance on Overdraft Coverage

Linda Rowe  
177 Polk 57  
Mena, AR 71953-8875

September 27, 2010

Comments to FDIC

Dear Comments to FDIC:

By electronic delivery to:  
OverdraftComments@fdic.gov

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation  
550 17th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20429-9990

Re: Overdraft Payment Supervisory Guidance, FIL-47-2010, August 11, 2010

Dear Sir or Madame:

Union Bank has a strong tradition of service to our community and our customers. We are the only locally-owned and managed bank in our area. All other banks are branches of larger institutions.

I am strongly opposed to the FDIC's proposed guidance (FIL-47-2010) that addresses overdraft coverage programs. Simply put now is not the time to introduce further regulation targeted at overdraft coverage products. My bank has just implemented new requirements under Regulation DD (Truth in Savings) and Regulation E (Electronic Fund Transfers) at great expense and manpower. Having to rework our bank's deposit products and to accommodate a regulatory moving target does not help my bank serve its customers.

Lastly, I fear that this proposal will ultimately do a great disservice to my customers, many of which appreciate the assurances that accidental overdraft coverage offers in preventing a bill being returned unpaid or a merchant-imposed fee being levied. If regulatory barriers and requirements become too burdensome, I will be faced with discontinuing these services and returning all check and ACH transactions, exposing my customers to fees far greater than those imposed by my bank.

My bank does not manipulate transaction processing to generate more fees and higher revenue. My bank is accountable to its community and its success is dependent on a mutually beneficial relationship with customers. If we engaged in "price-gouging" tactics, we COULD NOT do business in our community.

The elimination of the requirement that banks monitor programs for

excessive or chronic use (six overdrafts in a rolling twelve month period) and then contact the customer (in person or via telephone) to discuss less costly alternatives. This mandate would be extremely burdensome and operationally unworkable for my bank and would result in an excessive number of calls, causing us to either discontinue our overdraft coverage program, or to close the customer's account and return all payments.

To specifically exempt ad hoc programs from this guidance. Ad hoc overdraft coverage is an extension of my bank's customer service and is based on our knowledge of the individual customer. Including ad hoc overdraft coverage in this guidance would damage the relationship between my bank and its customers.

To eliminate the requirement to set daily thresholds on overdraft fees. We price this fee to manage the associated risk and as a deterrent to encourage consumers to engage in more financially-responsible practices.

To allow banks to charge a fee for returning items paid by check or ACH. Processing return items represent expense and employee attention and should not be provided free of charge.

I have been in banking almost 40 years, and the amount of government control and oversight has increased beyond imagination. We have customers who depend on the overdraft privilege to live from paycheck to paycheck. We do accommodate these people and they appreciate us doing so. It is sometimes a matter of them putting food on the table for their families.

I urge the FDIC to carefully consider this measure to ensure that the guidance does not impede my bank's ability to provide overdraft coverage services to my customers. If we are forced to abandon or significantly alter these services due to regulatory burden, the result could lead more consumers into becoming unbanked or relying on other products such as prepaid debit cards and check cashing services, which have higher fees and foster unsound financial practices.

Sincerely,

Linda Rowe  
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