



September 12, 2006

Mr. Robert E. Feldman  
Executive Secretary  
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation  
550 Seventeenth Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20429

P.O. Box 250  
Evans City, PA 16033  
724.538.3410 TEL  
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Attention: Comments

RE: Deposit Insurance Assessments and Federal Home Loan Bank Advances

Dear Mr. Feldman:

I am writing to comment on the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's proposal to classify Federal Home Loan Bank advances as volatile liabilities and potentially charge advance users higher deposit insurance premiums. We oppose this proposal since FHLBanks are highly stable institutions and its advances are verifiably low-risk. Enacting this rule would be harmful to FHLBank member institutions and could actually increase exposure and risk to the FDIC.

FHLBank advances are not a volatile liability for members. They are a key component of liquidity for institutions like ours. They come with set, predictable terms allowing efficient balance sheet management. Unlike deposits, advances do not diminish when market forces or consumer habits change.

FHLBanks themselves are a core part of the American banking system. As created by Congress in 1932, they have been the standard for stability, surviving the swings of markets, interest rates and business cycles. Their cooperative structure, joint and several liability and conservative business models ensure the future availability of advance products for their over 8,000 members.

Discouraging banks from borrowing from FHLBanks would be counterproductive to reducing risks for the FDIC. FHLBank advances ensure available, cost-effective liquidity, manage interest-rate risk, as well as fund loan growth. Penalizing advance use will force institutions to look for other, alternative sources that are not as dependable and are far more volatile than the FHLBanks. This would result in fewer loans, reduced profits and higher liquidity and interest-rate risk.

The FDIC should continue to determine rates using an institutions actual risk profile, reflected in comprehensive supervisory ratings. Those institutions engaged in risky activity should have higher premiums than their more conservative counterparts regardless of whether the funding comes through advances, deposits or other sources.

When Congress created the FHLBank System in 1932, its goal was a steady stream of mortgage credit through advances. Congress reiterated its support of advances by expanding small banks access to this funding in the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act. This proposal, which seeks to penalize the judicious use of advances runs contrary to the actions and intent of Congress.

Sincerely,



Mark DeBiasio  
Sr. VP/CFD

cc: Donald Shamey