Engineering | Planning | Landscape Architecture

A+E Group, Inc

140 Maffet Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18705-1003
570 822.8500 | fax 570 822.0297
e-mail ae@aegroup.org

RECEIVED
SEP 25 2006
By SSI

September 21, 2006

Robert E. Feldman, Executive Secretary
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
550 Seventeenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20429

Re: Federal Home Loan Bank Advances

Dear Mr. Feldman:

I wish to comment on the FDIC's notice of proposed rulemaking on deposit insurance assessments. We as a small business request you **encourage banks** to use the FHLB rather than discourage their participation by requiring higher assessment rates. This request is "home grown". We used a community bank that participated with FHLB to establish a lower mortgage rate which enabled our building project to proceed. Without FHLB, our project would not have happened. This results in jobs and economic development.

In addition, I have seen their affordable Housing Program in action – Lutheran Social Services of South Central PA received a $190,000 grant from FHLB to enable a new housing project to proceed. Without this grant, that project would have failed. This program by FHLB literally "pulls" troubled projects out of "deep water" on a continuing basis. No one else is rushing in as an alternative. This program is also repeated throughout the nation on a wide variety of projects; low income, handicapped, etc.

Please reconsider your contemplated changes.

Sincerely,

TPCoo

Thomas P. Cooney

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