

September 28, 2012

Robert E. Feldman  
Executive Secretary  
Attention: Comments/Legal ESS  
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation,  
550 17th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20429

Re: Basel III Capital Proposals

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I want to first thank you for the opportunity to make comments and bring to light what the new proposed Basel III requirements would mean to our community bank.

Basel III was conceived and originally designed to apply to the largest, internationally active banks and not for community banks. For the most part, community banks did not participate in the risky and volatile lending activity that depleted capital levels.

Community banks, such as First State Bank of Joplin, have been assisting customers with their borrowing needs for over 40 years and have been very effective in doing so. Why should our community bank be chastised and held accountable for the actions of self-serving behemoth institutions?

If Basel III is implemented at the community bank level, you will see reduced lending in certain lines that would require additional capital under the new proposed Basel III requirements. This, in essence, is counterproductive in the lending arena and to the consumer. You will have less products and services offered to the customer which will ultimately hurt the consumer and potentially drive up prices.

The Basel III proposal, coupled with the enactment of Dodd-Frank, has and will severely hamper the bank's ability to assist the end consumer. The excessive regulatory burden, which means more cost and less revenue, will force banks to eliminate products such as free checking and other product and services and will have no choice but to raise fees which again ultimately hurt the consumer.

I have been a community banker for several decades and am vehemently opposed to the inclusion of community banks in the Basel III proposal.

Thank you for your consideration in this very important issue for all community bankers across this great nation!

Sincerely,

John K. Lopes  
President