

From: John Flemming [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 6:19 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL MESSAGE] RIN: 3064-AF29

[REDACTED]

I am writing to you today to make my concerns regarding the potential implications of raising capital requirements on banks clear, particularly in relation to underserved communities, including those in the rural areas of Montana.

As a former Democratic State Representative who had the privilege of representing the rural districts of Montana HD 12 and HD 93, I had the opportunity to witness the unique challenges faced by people in these areas. Both of these districts encompass rural regions of Montana where access to credit for housing, business and more is a matter of utmost importance.

Raising capital requirements on banks could exacerbate the challenges already faced by underserved communities. These communities, which include many hardworking farmers, rely on the availability of credit to sustain their livelihoods and provide essential services to their constituents. By increasing capital requirements, we risk limiting the access to credit, which is critical for the development and stability of these areas.

I also wish to draw your attention to the fact that farmers often depend on loans to purchase equipment, invest in their operations, and navigate the ever-changing agricultural landscape. Any additional barriers to obtaining credit, as could be imposed by higher capital requirements, would place an undue burden on our farmers and hinder their ability to contribute to our nation's food security.

I respectfully urge the Federal Reserve to consider the far-reaching consequences of raising capital requirements on banks, especially for underserved communities and the agricultural sector. While ensuring the financial stability of our banking system is crucial, it is equally vital to strike a balance that allows these communities to thrive and grow.

John Fleming
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