

From: Robert Weinzapfel <robertw@muensterstate.bank>
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2023 6:58 PM
To: Comments
Subject: [EXTERNAL MESSAGE] May 22, 2023 - Special Assessments Pursuant to Systemic Risk Determination - Notice of Proposed Rulemaking; Comment Request (RIN 3064-AF93)

Mr. James P. Sheesley
Assistant Executive Secretary
Attention: Comments—RIN 3064-AF93
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
550 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20429
Dear Mr. Sheesley:

I am writing regarding the FDIC's proposal to exempt community banks under \$5 billion from the special assessment. I applaud the FDIC's decision to exempt community banks with fewer than \$5 billion in assets from paying any special assessment for the large bank failures of Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) and Signature Bank (SBNY), and I encourage the FDIC to finalize its rule as proposed.

I am the President and CEO of Muenster State Bank, a \$200 million community bank located in Muenster, Cooke County, Texas. We are a traditional community bank that operates a vastly different model than SVB and SBNY. We operate a safer and more sound business model that primarily gathers deposits from and grants loans to individuals and businesses in our local trade area, as we have done for over 100 years. While SVB and SBNY were reliant on uninsured deposits as a funding source, like most traditional community banks, we do not rely on significant amounts of less stable, uninsured deposits. The community banking industry does not pose a significant risk to the financial system, and as such, should not be responsible for subsidizing the outsized risk large banks pose to the financial system. Forcing community banks below \$5 billion in assets to be subject to the special assessment would negatively impact our income along with the rest of the community banking industry, likely causing banks to pass on higher assessment costs to customers or take other measures to offset this increased expense. It is important to our customers that our bank's deposits remain available to invest and redeploy into the local community and not to serve as a bailout for the aggressive practices of large banks.

I appreciate the FDIC's decision to propose exempting community banks from the special assessment and I encourage the FDIC to finalize its rulemaking as proposed.

Sincerely,

Robert Weinzapfel
President & CEO
Muenster State Bank