

**From:** Heath Fountain <heath.fountain@colonybank.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 18, 2023 6:48 AM  
**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 submitting this letter regarding the FDIC's proposal to exempt community banks under \$5 billion from the special assessment. I support the FDIC's decision to exempt community banks under \$5 billion in assets from paying any special assessments for the large bank failures of SVB and SBNY, and I encourage the FDIC to finalize it's rule as proposed.

I am the Chief Executive Officer of Colony Bank, a community bank with approximately \$3 billion in assets serving nearly 100,000 customers in communities of all sizes across Georgia and surrounding Southeastern states. We agree with the FDIC's recognition that community banks do not represent the same amount of risk to the Deposit Insurance Fund as do larger, more complex banks. Our bank has a traditional business model that poses a much smaller risk than larger banks with a more complex business model and a higher level of uninsured deposits. If our bank were to be subject to these special assessments, it would negatively impact our ability to redeploy our deposits into our local communities. I appreciate the FDIC not taking a one-size-fits-all approach to this matter, and I would encourage the FDIC to continue to pursue policies that recognize the difference, and the importance, of the community bank model. Our country has greatly benefited from the prevalence of community banks like Colony Bank. Community banks are vital to the health of small businesses and employment in small and mid-sized markets throughout this country. Your support of policies that recognize this will have positive economic benefits for our country.

On behalf of our team, board of directors, shareholders, customers and communities, we appreciate the opportunity to submit comments on the proposed special assessments.

Sincerely,

T. Heath Fountain  
Chief Executive Officer  
Colony Bank



**T. Heath Fountain**  
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