

102 E. DIVISION
P.O. BOX 609
FISHER, IL 61843-0609
PH: (217) 897-1136
FAX: (217) 897-1380



1501 E. OAK
P.O. BOX 710
MAHOMET, IL 61853
PH: (217) 586-1136
FAX: (217) 586-1138

fnb@fishernational.com

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

Subject: Support for FDIC's Proposal to Exempt Community Banks Under \$5 Billion from Special Assessment

Dear FDIC,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's proposal to exempt community banks with assets under \$5 billion from the special assessment. As a community banker for almost 49 years, it goes without saying I am firm believer in the importance of fostering a thriving community banking sector, I believe this proposal is a well-considered and sensible step to support the stability and growth of community banks across the country.

I certainly understand the challenge the FDIC faces when banks fail, such as those recently in the news. But their business model (relying on insured deposits as a funding source) is not our business and as such, we and other community banks should not be penalized for their risky behavior.

Having served as President/CEO for almost 25 years and now as Chairman, I have seen the challenges facing community banks increase in recent years due to various factors such as evolving regulatory requirements, economic fluctuations, and technological advancements in the financial industry. These challenges have placed additional strain on community banks, threatening our sustainability and ability to fulfill their crucial role. Assessing additional fees would certainly add to this strain and quite candidly is just not fair.


By proposing to exempt community banks with assets under \$5 billion from the special assessment, the FDIC demonstrates a keen awareness of the unique circumstances faced by smaller financial institutions. The exemption will relieve these banks from an additional financial burden, enabling them to allocate their resources more effectively towards supporting their customers and communities.

I commend the FDIC for its thoughtful approach in recognizing the significance of community banks and for taking action to ensure their continued success. This proposal is a testament to the FDIC's commitment to promoting a healthy banking environment that benefits both consumers and the economy as a whole.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support the FDIC's proposal to exempt community banks with assets under \$5 billion from the special assessment. I firmly believe that this measure will strengthen the viability of community banks, bolster local economies, and ultimately contribute to a more stable and inclusive financial system.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this matter. I trust that the FDIC will carefully evaluate the positive impact of this proposal and take necessary steps to implement it for the betterment of our communities and the nation.

Sincerely,


Michael W. Estes
Chairman
The Fisher National Bank