

October 10, 2012

Dear Sirs:

The proposed Basel III has been the topic of conversation where I am currently employed. We are a small, family owned bank in New Mexico. Upon hearing what the proposal entails, I must say I am mortified by what will happen if it is passed. It has been presented to me that if it is passed, we could very well lose our ability to make real estate loans, due to the 150% risk weight assigned to them.

If this proposal passes, it will squeeze out community banks nationwide. We will no longer be able to serve our customers by offering real estate loans. Since most small banks incur a lot of their assets through these mortgages, Basel III would, over time, eliminate our institution, and those like us.

It doesn't seem economical to continuously lump all banking institutions into every bill, law, regulation, and proposal passed. Bigger banks like Wells Fargo and Bank of America have made bad decisions for the greed of their CEOs, and when the government steps in to regulate it, it's the smaller banks that suffer.

Point blank, Basel III looks like a way for the government to take away a person's financial choice. With every regulation that comes down on small banks, they face the risk of shutting down, or being shut down by federal examiners.

I am asking you, to vote in favor of the American people and their right to conduct banking business with an institution of their choice.

Thank you for allowing me to express my concern with you regarding community banks inclusion in Basel III.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Richardson
Banking Systems Specialist