



Jake Bellipanni  
Executive Vice President

August 20, 2012

Ms. Jennifer J. Johnson, Secretary  
Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System  
20th Street and Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20551

Dear Ms. Johnson:

Re: Regulatory Capital Rules: Regulatory Capital, Implementation of Basel III, Minimum Regulatory Capital Ratios, Capital Adequacy, Transition Provisions, and Prompt Corrective Action

The proposed capital rules give my institution cause for concern. Making a midstream change always has many unexpected consequences, but this rule change has some foreseeable damaging consequences. Below, I have outlined three major issues that we currently foresee.

First, and most obvious, is the damage to banks that issued pooled trust preferreds (approximately 1,800 community banks issued.) These securities were created to give community banks an additional capital source. These banks are currently utilizing the capital rules that have been in existence since issuance. With continuing effort on the part of community banks to improve their capital ratios, it is counterproductive to adversely change the rules without at least grandfathering the current issues outstanding.

Secondly, many community banks across the country own Pooled Trust Preferred Securities (TRUPS). Obviously, by weakening the capital position of the issuing institutions, the credit of these securities could be severely damaged. Further, many issuing institutions also own TRUPS. It would be extremely difficult to overcome a reduction of capital and large potential other-than-temporary impairment (OTTI) charges due to this rule change.

Finally, it is imprudent to change capital market rules in midstream. Investors of TRUPS likely would not have been purchasers had they known that the capital treatment may change. Properly functioning capital markets need stable rules to remain functional. This would certainly derail community banks' financial flexibility in the future.

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In conclusion, we believe that this rule change is potentially devastating to many community banks, damages the integrity of capital markets, and is unfair to issuers and purchasers of trust preferred securities. We highly encourage you to reconsider this damaging rules change, and, at a minimum, consider grandfathering existing trust preferred securities issued by community banks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jake Bellipanni". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jake" being more prominent than the last name "Bellipanni".

Jake Bellipanni  
Chief Operations Officer