MACON BANK & TRUST COMPANY, JOHNATHAN WEST

Proposal and Comment Information

Title: Loans to Executive Officers, Directors, and Principal Shareholders of Member Banks; Bank Holding Companies (Reg O and Y), R-1896

Comment ID: FR-2026-0028-01-C14

Submitter Information

Organization Name: Macon Bank & Trust Company

Organization Type: Company

Name: Johnathan West

Submitted Date: 08/06/2026

RE: Docket No. R-1896 and RIN 7100-AH27

Dear Secretary McDonough,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Board of Governors' proposed rulemaking under Docket No. R-1896. Modernizing Regulation O and Regulation Y is a welcome and necessary step that provides common sense relief for community financial institutions.

Updating the limits established back in 1994 is long overdue. Over the past three decades, significant price increases have made the previous limits impractical. For community banks like ours, whose board members are often respected local business owners with active borrowing relationships to support growing businesses, and whose executives have routine personal financing needs, these restrictions can unnecessarily force them to seek financing from competitors or credit unions. Additionally, in today's higher interest rate environment, limiting this exception to first-lien mortgages on a primary residence can force borrowers to refinance an existing low-rate mortgage simply to access home equity.

I enthusiastically support the Board's proposal to raise the executive loan limit from $100,000 to $400,000. This increase is a major step forward. Given current economic conditions, we believe taking it one step further to $500,000, or $1,000,000 when backed by strong collateral at an 80 percent loan to value ratio or lower, would offer an even more practical approach while maintaining safety and soundness.

I commend the Board for proposing these essential updates and encourage the adoption of the final rule.

Sincerely,

Johnathan West
President & CEO
Macon Bank & Trust Company

Macon Bank & Trust Company

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08/06/2026

Benjamin W. McDonough, Secretary
Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System
20th Street and Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20551

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