



Subject: August 28, 2024 - Request for Information on Deposits; Comment Request (RIN 3064–ZA42)

Dear Mr. Sheesley,

My name is Matthew Espenshade and I am the President of the Pennsylvania State Grange which is headquartered in Mifflintown, PA. The Pennsylvania State Grange founded in 1873 is one of our nation's oldest fraternal farm and family organization, dedicated to the betterment of rural life through community service, education, legislation, and fellowship. In addition, I am a 7th generation dairy farmer in Pennsylvania.

The business of agriculture is unpredictable with seasonal cycles and many variables outside of our control. To manage these challenges, communities and business owners need a financial partner we can trust, and that's why so many farmers like me rely on local community banks for loans and other monetary support. These banks understand the needs of local businesses like mine and have always been there to help us navigate tough times.

I'm writing today because I'm concerned that the FDIC's proposed changes to the rules on brokered deposits will limit available loan options, cause higher interest rates on new lines of credit, and ultimately put more financial strain on our community during critical planting or harvest seasons.

Further, operating in more remote areas can mean limited access to direct customer deposits, so having access to diverse sources of stable funding can strengthen rural community banks. If this access is threatened, it would make local banks less competitive, pushing farmers and other local businesses to deal with larger banks that may not have the same commitment to their neighbors.

When farmers encounter financial difficulties, the effects ripple through our entire community. Local jobs, businesses, and services, and even supply chains all depend on a healthy agricultural sector. If our local banks are weakened by these new rules, it could lead to fewer opportunities and more economic pressure for people at all levels of our community.

Our farms, families, and communities depend on the support of strong, accessible local banks. I urge you to drop these proposed changes so we can maintain the financial tools needed to protect our livelihoods.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Matthew Espenshade, President, Pennsylvania State Grange