



**Timothy P. Houser**  
Supervisor  
Funeral Director

November 20, 2024

**Mark E. Letzo**  
Supervisor  
Funeral Director

Subject: Comment Request– RIN 3064-AF99

Dear Mr. Sheesley,

**John Paul Houser**  
Funeral Director

My name is Tim Houser and I am the retired owner of Askew-Houser Funeral Homes, Inc., a member of the Ebensburg Main Street Partnership, and a dedicated community volunteer. Small businesses are the heart of rural communities like Ebensburg and that's why I am writing to express my opposition to the FDIC's proposed rule regarding brokered deposits. If enacted, this proposal would put my community and our local economy at significant risk by penalizing the community banks that small businesses rely on.

**Bethany L. Anna**  
Funeral Director

Small businesses turn to community banks because they understand our community and local economic dynamics. Yet community banks face enormous competitive pressure, particularly from large banks that have the resources to invest in national marketing campaigns and cutting-edge digital tools. Forging relationships with third-party financial services platforms are one of the most cost-effective ways that community banks can keep up with their national competitors, particularly in rural communities like Cambria County.

[Redacted]  
Ebensburg, PA 15931  
[Redacted]

In my industry, cash flow can be unpredictable. We often provide services to families facing financial hardship, and the payment process can be delayed due to insurance claims or estate settlements. My business relies on a relationship with our local bank to help bridge these gaps, enabling us to continue serving our community without interruption. Funeral homes like Askew-Houser often rely on lines of credit to manage cash flow, hire staff and purchase new materials. If restrictions raise borrowing costs or reduce credit availability, it would limit the financial flexibility of small businesses—particularly in industries like funeral services.

[Redacted]  
Nanty Glo, PA 15943  
[Redacted]

Community banks play an invaluable role in supporting small businesses like mine. This proposal could have devastating unintended consequences for small businesses through reduced lending availability and higher interest rates. economies.

[www.askew-houser.com](http://www.askew-houser.com)

As someone who depends on community banking every day, I strongly urge the FDIC to reconsider this proposal. I hope you will take into account the unique challenges faced by small business owners in rural America when evaluating these proposed changes. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Timothy P. Houser  
Ebensburg, PA

