

From: [Michelle Benson](#)
To: [Comments](#)
Cc: sara_silvernail@smith.senate.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL MESSAGE] Request - RIN 3064-AF-99
Date: Tuesday, November 12, 2024 8:38:07 PM

Dear Mr. Sheesley,

My name is Michelle Benson, and I previously served as a Minnesota State Senator, representing parts of Anoka County in the Twin Cities. During more than a decade in public service, I spent years advocating for small businesses and community investment. This continues to be a priority for my neighbors, so I'm writing to share my concerns regarding the FDIC's proposed changes to the rules on brokered deposits. These changes pose a serious threat to the health of our local communities by undermining the very institutions that fuel their economic growth – our trusted, Main Street community banks.

Community banks play a vital role in supporting their customers by providing the loans and services both small businesses and individuals need to achieve their financial goals. These banks are uniquely positioned to understand the local economic landscape and offer personalized support. However, to remain competitive and effective in the areas they serve, community banks need access to modern, diverse funding streams to ensure they have the necessary capital to support their tailored offerings.

Today, innovative banking channels are a key part of this funding ecosystem. Digital apps and partnerships with third parties help community banks offer similar tools to large banks and maintain the liquidity needed to provide comprehensive loans and other resources to small businesses and those who run them. By restricting access to this funding, the FDIC's proposed changes would hinder the ability of community banks to serve their customers, leading to fewer loan options and higher borrowing costs. If this proposal becomes a reality, it will also stifle further growth, innovation, and opportunity for our local businesses, which would be detrimental for our larger Twin Cities community.

Small businesses are integral to the fabric of Minnesota's economy, and community banks are their strongest allies. To continue supporting a dynamic business environment, these banks must have the agility to secure funding from sources beyond local depositors. With my former constituents and now long-time neighbors in mind, I urge the FDIC to reconsider these proposed changes to ensure our community banks can remain a cornerstone of our local economies.

Sincerely,

Michelle Benson
Former Minnesota State Senator