From: Roger Hastings [RHastings@emprisebank.com]

Sent: Tuesday, December 30, 2008 1:30 PM

To: Director - FASB

Subject: File Reference: Proposed FSP EITF 99-20-a

December 30, 2008



LETTER OF COMMENT NO. 285

Technical Director
Financial Accounting Standards Board
301 Merritt 7
P.O. Box 5116
Norwalk, CT 06856-5116

Via email: director@fasb.org

File Reference: Proposed FSP EITF 99-20-a (Amendments to the Impairment and Interest Income Measurement Guidance of EITF Issue No. 99-20)

Dear Technical Director:

Emprise Bank appreciates the recent focus of the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) on the important issue of "other than temporary impairment" (OTTI). We are a community bank located in Wichita Kansas. We hold a portfolio of non agency RMBS (Alt-A and Prime) that is performing well and is projected, on a cash flow basis, to yield the returns we expected at purchase date. However, due to the illiquidity in the whole loan RMBS marketplace, current indicative bids are substantially below our book value. Although we have the ability and intent to hold these securities, we are at risk of incurring impairment by applying the current FASB guidance.

We support the FASB's Proposed FASB FSP EITF 99-20-a, Amendments to the Impairment and Interest Income Measurement Guidance of EITF Issue No. 99-20, which would amend EITF Issue No. 99-20 (Recognition of Interest Income and Impairment on Purchased Beneficial Interests and Beneficial Interests That Continue to Be Held by a Transferor in Securitized Financial Assets). We urge you to issue the proposal in final form, to be effective for December 31, 2008 financial reporting.

We support the proposal as a first step toward improving the application of OTTI, and we appreciate the FASB's recent decision to examine additional problems relating to OTTI. We agree with the letter from the American Bankers Association to the FASB on the proposal, dated December 28, 2008, which supports the proposal and requests that additional OTTI concerns be addressed for year-end 2008 reporting. OTTI has been controversial for many years, and we believe it would be more meaningful to use a model based on credit impairment rather than on market values. Because of the significance of the problems with the application of OTTI in the current market environment, we believe changes to these practices are critical for year-end 2008 financial reporting.

Thank you for your attention to these matters and for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Roger Hastings, CFO Emprise Bank Roger Hastings Chief Financial Officer Emprise Bank Center - 4th Floor Phone: (316) 383-4362

Visit our website at www.emprisebank.com

All of us, for each of you

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