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LETTER OF COMMENT NO.

Sent:

Tuesday, March 31, 2009 10:48 AM

To:

Adrian Mills; Diane Inzano; Joseph Vernuccio; Kevin Stoklosa; Kristofer Anderson; Mark Trench;

Meghan Clark; Peter Proestakes; Russell Golden; Vita Martin; Wade Fanning

Subject: FW: Letter_to_FASB_in_support_of_chan

From: Joe Svetik [mailto:jsvetik@firststarbank.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 10:47 AM

To: Director - FASB

Subject: Letter_to_FASB_in_support_of_chan

March 31, 2009

OTHER THAN TEMPORARY IMPAIRMENT

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

Via email: director@fasb.org

RE: Comments on Proposed FSP FAS 115-a, FAS 124-a, and EITF 99-20-b: Recognition and Presentation of Other-Than-Temporary Impairments

Dear Mr. Golden:

We are First Star bank located in Bethlehem, Pa. We have \$650,000,000 in total assets and have nine offices located throughout the Lehigh Valley. As a community based financial institution and a fellow CPA myself, we appreciate the interest you have shown in this important matter. We have nearly 100 employees and a swift and urgent positive change is critical to survival.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Proposed FSP FAS 115-a, FAS 124-a, and EITF 99-20-b, Recognition and Presentation of Other-Than-Temporary Impairments ("proposed FSP"). We commend the FASB's efforts to improve guidance relating to other than temporary impairment: ("OTTI") and we wish to provide comments on the Proposed FSP.

Overall, we support the Proposed FSP. Specifically, we believe that the threshold to recognize market-related OTTI based on the lack of intent to sell (management asserts that it does not have the intent to sell the security, and it is more likely than not that it will not have to sell the security before its recovery) is certainly more operational than the current requirement. We also strongly agree with the proposal to recognize only credit losses through earnings.

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We believe that the Proposed FSP is more consistent with the "ongoing-entity" principal than the current guidelines of recognizing through earnings losses that would be more consistent with a "liquidation" model.

We also believe that the recognition is parallel to the treatment of loans in that only the credit impaired amount would be recognized through earnings.

We believe that it is crucial that the guidance be made effective for the periods after March 15, 2009. If it is possible to consider these changes to be effective retroactive to 12/31/2008, that would be even better.

Yours truly, Joseph T. Svetik, CPA Chairman, President and CEO